SAT. SPECIAL / A2-4

Mother Angelica is a 'cool' nun who's never preachy

BUSINESS / B1

Construction giant, Metro Pacific team up for 84% in Maynilad

METRO / A19

P30M worth of shabu seized in raid of suspected shabu den in Caloocan

SUPER! / C2

The Oscars of Pinoy pop culture: I am Super Awards, Year 3

Teves father-son: Case of communication gap

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A CASE OF MISCOMMUNICATION BETWEEN father and son.

This was how Malacañang tried to calm the tempest created by Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves' outraged reaction to apparently unfounded claims that the Palace was out to curb the powers of his son, Finance Secretary

TEVES/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
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Interfaith bishops rally behind 'rebel' bishops

By Christian Esguerra

HUWAG PATULAN ANG TSISMIS

"WHAT THE ARROYO ADministration is doing to the six bishops is a sign of its rotten and moribund state," according to leaders of major Christian denominations that have thrown their sup-

INTERFAITH/ A17

'A work of bad fiction'

Lawyer says charges vs Gringo based on recanted testimony

ATTENTION: President Arroyo, flanked by outgoing Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga (left) and his successor Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, salutes the troops during the change of command ceremony at Camp Aguinaldo on Friday.

LYN RILLON

By Philip C. Tubeza and Norman Bordadora

THE COUNSEL OF EX-SEN. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan yesterday dismissed as "a work of bad fiction" claims linking his client to the purported attempt to topple President Macapagal-Arroyo last February.

Honasan's actions and statements advocating political reform, as mentioned in the affidavit of 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, were "twisted to show conspiracy" but still "do not by themselves constitute criminal acts," Daniel Gutierrez said.

The lawyer also said Honasan, who led a series of coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s, would face his accusers if the government could guarantee fair treatment.

Honasan, who was implicated in the foiled Oakwood mutiny of the Magdalo group of soldiers, is in hiding.

Gutierrez said in a statement that the banner headline of yesterday's issue of the INQUIRER—"It's the usual suspect"—"says it all."

He added: "Like a bad remake of the Bogart movie 'Casablanca' (where the chief of police character routinely rounded up the 'usual suspects' to mask his inefficiency), this latest charade of false charges is at best a work of bad fiction.

"Senator Honasan is being pilloried, not on the basis of actual concrete evidence of wrongdoing, but on allegations and speculations based on recanted testimony, the provenance of which is suspect."

San Juan was among the officers who mounted the 2003 mutiny. He escaped from his military custodians in January, was captured in February, and last week defected from the Magdalo and pledged allegiance to Ms Arroyo.

In his affidavit, San Juan narrated how Honasan reportedly presided over Magdalo initiation rites for military recruits as well as meetings from 2001 right up to a month before the purported coup attempt on Feb. 24.

But Gutierrez said Honasan understood San Juan's defection and issuance of the affidavit.

He said the ex-senator was "not unaware" that San Juan "suddenly recanted after being in a *bartolina* (solitary confinement) longer than the most hardened Bilibid inmate."

A WORK/ A17

Esperon: Southcom splits to go after NPA, Abu

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

IN A MAJOR MOVE AIMED AT REmoving the two biggest threats to the country's security, new Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said the military would split its biggest regional command into two forces: One would go after the New People's Army and the other would hunt down the Abu Sayyaf and their allies.

The affected unit is the Southern Command (Southcom), which comprises about 60 percent—or 70,000 troops—of the 120,000-strong Armed Forces.

Esperon told reporters that Southcom's area of responsibility would be divided between eastern Mindanao and western Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf and the Jemaah Islamiyah terrorist groups are generally based in western Mindanao while the NPA rebels are generally concentrated in the east.

At Esperon's formal installation, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced she had approved "without second thought" the recommendation by former AFP chief Gen. Generoso Senga to divide the Southcom.

"We will divide the Southern Command into two unified commands for more effective troop man-

ESPERON / A6

GMA keeping promise to 3 Sona kids, says Dinky

By Christian V. Esguerra

(First of a series)

-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief, PDI-Team

THE "SONA BOYS" OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo are all grown up now.

Like actors who have had enough of the paparazzi, Jayson Vann Banogon, Jomer Pabalan and Erwin Dolera apparently want no more of the intense national attention they suddenly got five years ago.

Away from the glare of media and politics, the three boys are quietly getting on with their lives, through good education and help for their families to earn a living.

These were two of the wishes they set sail on paper boats in 2001, an innocuous media event that would later prove life changing.

Ms Arroyo eventually picked up the requests from news reports and paraded Jayson, Jomer and Erwin—then the new and young faces of the government's poverty alleviation program in her State of the Nation Address (Sona) in 2001.

Save for two other wishes—justice and legitimate housing for victims of

GMA'S KEEPING/ A8

Philippine flag protects Pinoys in East Timor

By Nikko Dizon

FILIPINOS ARE LOVED BY EAST TIMOrese, says Senior Supt. Edgar Layon, who only knows too well how it is to be in an area in conflict and at the same time try to promote peace.

In 1993, he was sent to Cambodia. He later went to East Timor, joining the United Nations Transnational Authority in East Timor (UNTAET), the UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMSET), and finally, the UN Office in Timor Leste (UNOTIL).

Layon spent two years in the East Timor capital of Dili as a UNOTIL training coordinator for the city's local police force.

Last May, Layon found himself amid a bloody attack on a UN convoy that left six people dead, and two UN officers wounded, including himself.

East Timor was then gripped by un-

PHILIPPINE/ A6

Drilon, priest in Beirut: Where are OFW billions?

By Nikko Dizon

"WHERE HAVE THE OFWS' BILLIONS OF pesos in remittances gone?"

Fr. Agustin Advincula, the only Filipino priest in Lebanon, raised this question as a second batch of more than 100 overseas Filipino workers joined a massive international exodus of thousands of tired, frightened refugees out of Lebanon. Some foreigners fainted in the blazing summer sun as crowds waited for ships to take them away.

The Philippine government has admitted it does not have sufficient resources to implement an immediate evacuation of thousands of OFWs, in contrast to the modern transportation facilities other countries are using to pluck their nationals out of Lebanon.

"I don't think our resources are scarce. I think it's more a matter of how the government uses these resources," Advincula said in an overseas phone interview Thursday night.

OFW remittances in 2005 amounted to $12.3 billion, including money sent through informal channels.

Advincula, who runs the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Beirut, where Filipinos had sought refuge before leaving the country, said there were many fees collected from OFWs and at the very least, the funds

DRILON/ A4

IN TOUCH but without touching, Ma. Lourdes Tualla can only cry as she talks to her sister in Lebanon, using the Owwa hotline—for free. At right, prayer mats are spread out in front of the Israel Embassy where Muslim women rally for peace in Lebanon.

RYAN LIM

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over Western Visayas and Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods or landslides. The rest of the country will be cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/07/21/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Changing of the guard at the Senate

Drilon vows smooth turnover to Villar

By Philip C. Tubeza

A SMOOTH CHANGE in the Senate leadership is expected when the third regular session of the 13th Congress opens on Monday, Senate President Franklin Drilon said yesterday.

Drilon said he would immediately nominate Sen. Manuel Villar for the Senate presidency upon the opening of the Senate session on Monday. It is expected that Villar will be elected by acclamation, he added.

Gentleman's agreement

Drilon said the forthcoming leadership change was anchored on the gentleman's agreement forged between him and Villar in July 2004.

During a joint press conference of Drilon and Villar last June 8, the outgoing Senate chief had promised to nominate his successor when the third regular session begins.

Richest senator

"I do not do so with a heavy heart. I know I am entrusting that solemn and lofty task to a person, whom the record shows, is far more than equal to it," Drilon said.

Villar, the richest senator, said that given the chance to lead the Senate, there would be no major changes in the institution's policy and pledged to continue its position "as a rampart of freedom."

Longest stint

Drilon will bow out after five years and seven months as president of the Upper Chamber, the longest to hold the position after the Edsa revolution. Former Sen. Jovito Salonga, the first post-Edsa Senate president, had the second longest stint as Senate chief at four years and four months.

During his Senate presidency, Drilon led the chamber in enacting several landmark laws, a number of them designed to help propel the country's economy.

Vital bills

Among the vital legislation enacted during Drilon's term as Senate President were the Anti-Money Laundering Act, Special Purpose Vehicles Act, General Banking Law, E-Commerce Law, Dual Citizenship Act, Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act.

Overseas voting

Overseas Absentee Voting Act, the Abolition of the Death Penalty Law, Synchronized Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections Act, Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, Government Procurement Reform Act, Philippine Clean Water Act, Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, Amendments to the VAT Law, the Juvenile Justice System Act and the Act Promoting the Welfare of the AFP by Increasing the Rate of Base Pay of its Officers and Enlisted Personnel.

9th president

After his election, Villar will take his oath as the 9th post-Edsa Senate president in the presence of his family.

A photo session of senators will then follow at the plenary hall.

In the afternoon, the senators will join members of the House of Representatives at the Batasan Pambansa for a joint session of Congress to hear the State-of-the-Nation Address of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

LIFE GOES ON

A father carries his daughter on his shoulders while crossing the Lidong river in Baranggay San Isidro, Sto. Domingo, Albay, Friday, unmindful of the danger posed by the Mayon volcano in the background.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Local execs helped GMA craft speech, says Bunye

By Christine Avendaño

THE STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS THAT President Macapagal-Arroyo will present on Monday will focus on "regional developments," much of the document having been drafted with the help of local government executives she consulted across the country.

This was Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye's answer to a Pulse Asia survey that said one out of every four Filipinos does not believe the Sona will be "truthful."

The message that the President will deliver was based on wide consultations with leaders from provinces and cities across the country, local executives who are "knowledgeable" about the situation in their areas, said Bunye.

Asked whether the speech would focus more on economic rather than political matters, Bunye said: "I think there is a political undertone there. You can see the reliance on the local government units in regional development. This is a national-local partnership and you could see the trend of distributing the powers more to the countryside. So it's not just economic but political in a sense."

The President visited several provinces last month to discuss plans for four so-called economic super regions on which the government will focus investment and development. She said at the time that she would include the inputs from these consultations in her Sona.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the Pulse Asia Survey actually showed a drop in the number of people who doubt the truthfulness of the Sona. This year, only 27 percent said they doubted the truthfulness of the Sona against last year's 45 percent, Defensor said.

He said the number of people who believe in the truthfulness of Ms Arroyo's Sona rose to 16 percent this year, from last year's 13 percent.

This showed that like other surveys on hunger and other problems, the President's ratings were improving, Defensor said.

Bunye said the President read the first draft of the Sona to the Cabinet last week. The speech lasted 32 minutes. Ms Arroyo was aiming for 40 to 45 minutes, he said. *With a report from Christian Esguerra*

Police place Metro Manila on full alert

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE PLACED THE NATION'S CAPITAL ON full alert at noon yesterday ahead of the President's Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address at the Batasan on Monday in the wake of threats from communist rebels to sow terror during the Sona.

"Effective 12:30 p.m. today, the entire Metro Manila police is placed under full alert," National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) Director Vidal Querol said in a text message to reporters.

Querol told radio station dzBB that police have set up checkpoints in strategic areas where communist rebels were expected to sneak through on their way to Metro Manila such as Batangas and Bulacan.

He told dzBB that he has received intelligence information that some communist rebels would be coming from Mindoro, a known hot-bed of New People's Army rebels.

According to Querol, he has alerted the Batangas Police to watch out for these Mindoro-based rebels who could be planning to enter Metro Manila through the Batangas port. The other entry point is Bulacan, he said.

The Metro Manila Police had originally planned to raise the full alert on Sunday, the eve of Ms Arroyo's state address.

The entire Metro Manila would virtually become a fortified territory ahead of the Sona on Monday with the deployment of some 16,000 cops and soldiers to ensure peace and order.

At least half of this number will be tasked to secure the Batasan complex and the roads leading to it where protesters are expected to converge.

Others will be assigned to secure rail stations, shopping malls, banks and other public places.

Querol also ordered his men to carry out sweeps in "known criminal lairs." He did not, however, identify these areas.

But militant groups claimed that the police were using the alleged NPA plot as an excuse to harass their ranks.

President facing skeptical nation, say militant lawmakers

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL BE facing a skeptical nation when she reports on the state of the nation on Monday, militant lawmakers said yesterday.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran said the President was "facing another crisis of credibility at her upcoming State of the Nation Address in light of public polls indicating that nearly one out of every two Filipinos believe that her previous Sona's have been deviant from the truth."

Beltran, who is under hospital arrest while awaiting trial for the Feb. 24 alleged Left-Right conspiracy to grab power, cited a recent Pulse Asia survey showing that almost 27 percent of respondents believed that Ms Arroyo's Sona this year would not be truthful.

"She can harp about her development plans and so-called achievements, but these will not be believed … the people will be able to discern social truth according to how they have directly experienced it," Beltran said in a statement.

However, House Majority Leader Prospero C. Nograles belittled the survey, saying there could be bias even in the way the poll questions are presented so that their outcome does not necessarily reflect the sentiments of the people or the majority.

Nograles expects the President to deliver a speech that would focus mainly on legislative actions to address the energy crisis and impending crisis in the Middle East, and her administration's desire for increased government investment in developing the regions outside of Metro Manila and press for more meaningful reforms through Charter change.

"We defer to what the Executive would want in the same manner the Executive would want. They are the ones who execute the law. We just wait for what the administration wants," Nograles said.

In Tacloban City, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla said the President would talk about the good things her administration had supposedly done and not about the real issues confronting the country.

"She will likely misinform. She will say everything is rosy in the Philippines, that she has been doing extremely well and that we have no problems," Escudero said in Filipino. *Michael Lim Ubac and Vicente S. Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau*

DepEd tells teachers, students not to go out on the streets

By Alcuin Papa

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT HAS REminded teachers and students that Monday has not been declared a holiday and that they were expected to stay inside the classrooms rather than go out on the streets during the State of the Nation Address (Sona) of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on July 24.

With the reminder, acting Secretary Fe Hidalgo has not flat out and said that teachers and students were banned from joining anti-GMA rallies during the Sona. But she felt compelled to make the statement after several militant teachers and students groups reportedly vowed to lead protests on Monday.

Hidalgo said that the department was not curtailing the rights of students and teachers. She asserted that it was the responsibility of teachers to teach classes on that day and students to be present inside classrooms to learn.

During her first month as DepEd Officer-in-Charge, Hidalgo drew criticism from teachers and students after she issued a directive saying that the safety of students might be compromised if they joined rallies.

"We have seen on television how violent rallies can become and we, as educators, must ensure the safety of our young students. I'm sure the parents feel the same way," Hidalgo had earlier said.

Hidalgo added that the number of school days was already too few to ensure proper learning and that disruptions were not desirable. She called attention to a previous memorandum issued early this year where DepEd encouraged co-curricular activities to be held outside regular school hours.

Undersecretary for Regional Operations Ramon C. Bacani also earlier clarified that the DepEd was not prohibiting teachers and school officials from joining political rallies as long as they did so out of their own volition, beyond official school hours and without forcing students to join them.

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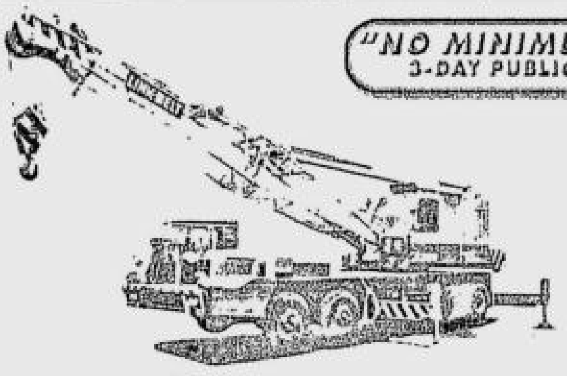

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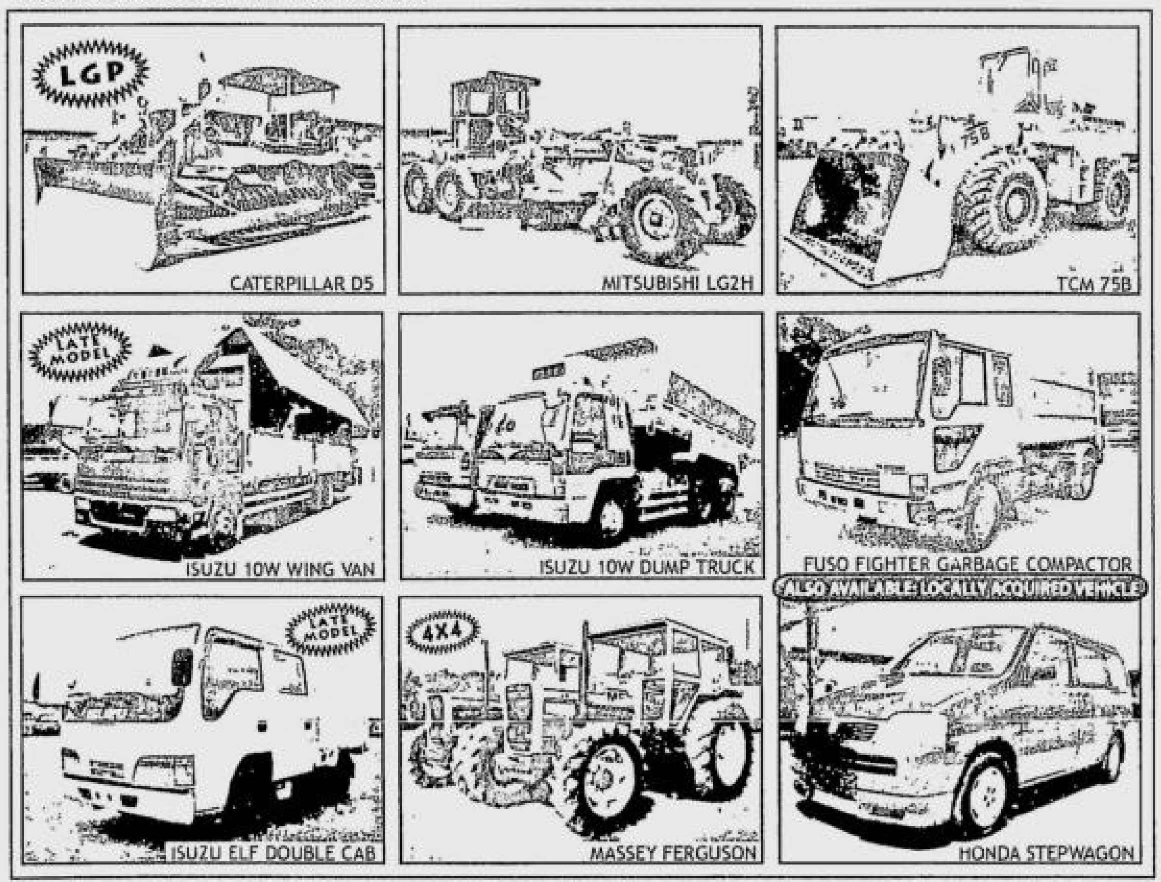

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PRC asked to suspend oath-taking of nurses

Resolve leakage issue first, says UST

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE UNIVERSITY OF STO. TOMAS COLLEGE OF Nursing yesterday called on the Professional Regulatory Commission to suspend the oath-taking of those who passed the 2006 licensure examination for nurses while the controversy over the exam question leakage remains unresolved.

In an open letter, UST College of Nursing representatives said they were concerned about the leakage and about the PRC's decision to release the results in "subsequent haste" and without consulting with the concerned parties because it tended to cast the exam and the ones who passed it in a negative light.

"This action raises more doubts not only on the integrity of our licensure examination but also on the quality of our nursing graduates. More specifically, this action tarnishes the image of all the nursing graduates who took the licensure examination this year," the letter said.

PRC chair Leonor Rosero said she would have to consult with the members of commission and weigh the advisability of having the nursing graduates retake the exam.

The PRC has decided to let the 17,000 nursing graduates who passed the recent board exam take their oath on Aug. 22, despite the still unresolved controversy over allegations that some of the test questions had been leaked in the Baguio City exams that were administered last June 28.

It released the results of the exams, claiming the suspected leakage did not affect the overall result and that the integrity of the examinations was intact.

The letter's signatories included the college's assistant dean Susan Maravilla, UST Nursing Alumni Association treasurer Thelma Abelardo, Nursing Student Council public relations officer Alfredo Payawan and Faculty Association president Rene Tadle, who read the letter aloud during a forum at the Ambassador Hotel.

Rosero said she was willing to hold a dialogue with the parties concerned and explain to them how the commission computed the scores of the passing graduates.

Nursing graduates in Baguio City complained that examination questions covering Tests III and V were allegedly leaked to the R.A. Gapuz Review Center in that city. The center has denied involvement in any leakage.

The PRC has since administratively charged two PRC commissioners and also asked the National Bureau of Investigation to look into the matter.

The PRC said that in computing the scores of the exam-takers, it excluded about 20 test questions in Test III that appeared in the allegedly leaked documents and "toned down" the weight of another questions in Test V to 10 percent from 20 percent instead of totally deleting the entire set.

The UST petitioners, however, said the nullified portions of the nursing exam were crucial to the exercise of the profession. It said allowing those who were declared to have passed the exam to practice their profession could pose a risk to future patients.

RP still top supplier of nurses to US

THE PHILIPPINES REMAINS THE TOP SUPPLIER of nurses to the United States.

But Trade Union Congress of the Philippines general secretary Ernesto Herrera said the Indians, South Koreans, Canadians and Cubans have emerged as the Filipinos' chief rivals in the American nursing market.

Herrera cited statistics from the US National Council of State Boards of Nursing which placed the Philippines as America's number one supplier of foreign nurses.

NCSBN said a total of 6,171 nurses educated in the Philippines took the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for the first time from January to June this year. They accounted for seven percent of the 89,140 first-time takers of the NCLEX during the period.

The NCLEX is the final step in the nurse licensure process in the US. The number of NCLEX examinees is "a good indicator" of how many US as well as foreign nursing graduates are trying to enter the profession in that country, according to Herrera.

NCSBN data show that from January to June this year, a total of 1,864 nurses educated in India took the NCLEX, while a total of 948 nurses trained in South Korea took the test.

Completing the top five countries with the most NCLEX takers in the six-month period were Canada and Cuba, with 504 and 260 examinees, respectively. *Jerome Aning*

Citibank announces winners of Reload promo

34 Citibank cardholders walk away with brand new cellular phones

Citibank, the country's largest credit card issuer, recently announced the winners of the Citibank Reload raffle promotion. The latest models of cellular phones were given away to thirty four cardholders who enrolled with Citibank Reload.

Globe subscribers who won a Sony Ericsson K300i were Alexander Atienza, Michelle Doon, Endrica Ramos, Janice Ilagan, and Jocelyn Munlawin. Winning a Motorola C651 were also Globe subscribers Christopher Visaya, Menandro Laroza, Mildred Fundan, Jackeline Uy, Cris Miguel, Abeth Cortado, and Rose Calanog.

Smart subscribers who took home a Motorola C261 were Sharon Noel, Romel Mangune, Mary Ruth Buenaventura, Ma. Corazon Naz, Teofilo Garcia, Rosana Mohnani, Jennifer Neri, Elvira Villarino, Leonora Quitoriano, Wilfredo Hernandez, Cathy Valencia, and Warlito Noval.

Grand winners were Globe subscribers Kristine Idio, Marlon Ronabio, Timoteo Cataylo, Kris Manalaysay, and Pablo Rey Fuentes who each won a Nokia 6020. Walking away with a Motorola Razr V3 also in the grand draw were Smart subscribers Monalaida Era, Irene Asuncion, Analen Naredo, Alfredo Ramos, and Richard Cepeda.

The promotion allowed new and existing primary and supplementary Citibank cardholders who enrolled with Citibank Reload to automatically earn entries to the raffle. Each successful enrollment with at least a one-time usage qualified as a raffle entry for the weekly draw, where two brand-new cellular phones were given away.

With Citibank Reload, you can electronically load your pre-paid cellular phone just by sending a text message and charging the load to your Citibank credit card. To,enjoy this service, simply enroll your Citibank credit card by calling 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila and 234-9999 in Metro Cebu.

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To reload your own cellphone, text CITILOAD<space><reload amount><space><reload ID> and send to 350 for SMART subscribers and 2201 for Globe subscribers. Wait for a text message confirming your reload.

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Post-paid subscribers may also enroll in Citibank Reload to load the prepaid account of family and friends.

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FIFTY YEARS

3-minute call bridges distance to Lebanon

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOR THREE MINUTES—WHICH was the length of the free phone call—the 9,000 km that separated Carolina Biado from her daughter Melinda seemed to have vanished.

But the phone call wasn't enough. What Carolina wanted was to feel Melinda's embrace.

The Israeli-Lebanese war that has forced tens of thousands of foreigners to flee Beirut has wrought its anguish among Filipinos. It has separated mothers from daughters, wives from husbands, and sisters from sisters.

"She said she is okay. But I'm still worried because anything could happen after we ended the call," Biado told the INQUIRER after yesterday's emotional phone call that reduced the 62-year-old mother to tears.

Melinda, a teacher and married to a French, told her mother that there was nothing to worry about. But it did not comfort Biado at all.

"She's very far away. I will only be appeased when I see her here, safely home, where I can hug and feel her," she said.

Biado was among the hundreds of relatives of OFWs who trooped to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Office in Pasay City yesterday to avail of the Libreng Tawag Center provided by the two giant telecommunication companies, Smart and Globe.

Fear remains

The free call only highlighted the vast distance that separated Filipino families.

Although Biado was able to talk to her daughter, she still couldn't shake off the fear that has kept her up late at night since the bombings in Lebanon now on its 11th day.

The anxiety of the relatives who waited for their turn on the cell phones provided by the two companies was evident in their blank stares and fidgety hands.

Once on the phone, they talked impulsively, asking their loved ones about their situation and ticking off last minute instructions on where to seek refuge. They did not waste any second of their precious three-minute free call.

Others, meanwhile, gathered at a lounge on the ground floor where a television was switched on to CNN.

There, as they waited another few hours to attempt another call to their loved ones, they talked in whispers and hushed tones, swapping the latest news they heard about Lebanon, either from their relatives or from the newspapers or television.

Some nervously pored over maps of Lebanon, Syria and Israel that Owwa had posted on the lounge area, where Biado chose to stay the whole afternoon. She said she didn't want to go home only to be haunted by bad thoughts and anxiety.

Theresa Mosquito said she attempted to call her 22-year-old sister working as a domestic helper in Jounieh, several kilometers away from Beirut, four times but the phone just kept on ringing.

"I just want to hear her voice to know that she's okay," Mosquito said. She also couldn't hide her frustration with the government. "They said they will try their best to bring our relatives back home. It's not very comforting. Waiting is painful," she said.

Arnold Almonte's hands trembled after his conversation with his wife, Marifel.

He said his wife was trapped with her employer in a condominium, just a walking distance from the Beirut bombardment.

His wife couldn't run to the Church of the Miraculous Medal or to the St. Joseph Church at the Achrafieh district—the designated evacuation centers for Filipinos—because all roads had been ravaged by the war.

Escape from employers

Almonte said his wife went to the Philippine Embassy in Beirut the other day to seek help, only to find out that it was already closed.

"Don't give up and be strong. You will get home, I will wait for you here," Almonte told his wife, who was apparently losing hope of escaping the war.

He also told her to go to the evacuation centers immediately even without her passport or money.

Yesterday was supposedly Marifel's first year in Lebanon, said her sister, Shiela.

Based on the accounts of relatives of the Filipinos in Lebanon, fleeing the war was difficult. But escaping their employers was yet another hurdle to surmount.

'I'm from Philippines'

Nelsa Dollison was almost shouting at her cousin's Lebanese employer on the phone.

"I want to speak to Merlinda Canoy. I am calling from the Philippines," she said.

But after a few minutes, the line went dead. The Lebanese employer did not pick up the phone when Dollison called a third time.

During their first conversation, her cousin said she wanted to go home. "But her employer doesn't want her to. Maybe that's why nobody is answering the phone anymore," Dollison said.

Frightened by bombs

Angeles Achapero said her sister was not allowed to return to the Philippines by her employer.

"She was really crying and pleading when we talked to her. She really wants to go home now because she's scared of the bombs," Achapero said.

The employer sent her other sister who was working in Kuwait a message saying: "Don't worry. Your sister is safe with us. Everything is okay."

"To us it's not. They don't feel our fear because it's not them who are away from their families," said Achapero.

Drilon, priest in Beirut ...

From page A1

should be used to assist those wanting to escape the war and go home.

Advincula said a lukewarm government response would be unacceptable to other nationalities.

"In other countries, it's the government that is scared of its citizens. They don't want to be accused by their citizens of not helping them. Whatever happens, they are the responsibility of their governments," the priest said.

'Modern-day heroes'

It's a different story altogether with Filipinos, he said.

He said that in other countries, citizens could sue their governments but it was not in the nature of Filipinos to file suits against their government and seek damages.

And to think that the OFWs have been hailed in their country as "modern-day heroes" for keeping the country's economy afloat.

Senate President Franklin Drilon, for his part, deplored that the P150 million allocated by Ms Arroyo to evacuate the Filipinos was "woefully inadequate."

He said the amount would only cover 1,500 of the thousands of OFWs caught in the conflict.

"The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration currently has cash reserves amounting to a whopping P7.6 billion but Malacañang allocated only P150 million which can cover the evacuation of only 1,500 workers," Drilon said.

Advincula said that at the relocation center, someone told him that the government spent a lot of money to secure the release of truck driver Angelo de la Cruz from his Iraqi kidnappers.

There was no accusatory tone in Advincula's voice. He, in fact, stressed that the Philippine Embassy's staff and labor officers had been extending all possible help to the stranded OFWs.

Asked what were the OFWs' immediate needs from the government, Advincula said: "Nothing much, just the basic necessities."

A long war?

He said several of them were nearly penniless.

One OFW was literally abandoned by her employer at the doorstep of their condominium. Fortunately, the worker, a young woman in her 20s and a first time domestic worker, managed to find the relocation center by herself.

"The way I see it, it would take a long time before Beirut recovers from this war. What will happen if they stay?" said Advincula, who has been in Lebanon for nine years and witnessed the tail end of the country's civil war in the 1990s.

Some were luckier than others because their employers brought them along when they left for Europe and the United States at the start of the conflict, Advincula said.

There are an estimated 34,000 OFWs in Lebanon, most of whom working as domestic helpers in Beirut.

Second batch

A second batch of OFWs left Beirut for Damascus by bus at around 3 p.m. (Manila time), according to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The latest evacuees totaling 106 were to join the 188 OFWs (not 192, as earlier reported) who made up the first group that left for Syria on Thursday, special envoy Roy Cimatu said.

Officials planned to have both groups—totaling 294 OFWs—on board an Emirates Airline's Lockheed 11 plane bound for Manila and expected to arrive at 1 p.m. today.

As of yesterday, at least 246 OFWs remained sheltered at the St. Vincent Lodging House inside the church compound, according to Walter Salmigo, chargé d'affaires of the embassy.

1,200 waiting

Some 1,200 more Filipinos have registered with the mission to be on the next trips out of the Lebanese capital.

Salmigo maintained that violence in Lebanon remained "localized" and that not all Filipino workers there could be considered endangered by Israeli attacks.

In times of trouble, the Philippine government has managed to extend a helping hand to others. Thailand had sought its assistance in evacuating 105 Thai nationals in Beirut and the DFA instructed the embassy to count among its "priorities" the accommodation of this request from Bangkok.

Vice President Noli de Castro said alert level 3 remained in effect and that President Macapagal-Arroyo had directed the DFA to ensure the evacuation of everyone if the worst came to the worst.

"It is still voluntary evacuation in Lebanon and our officials are making sure that those who have opted to stay are safe with their employers," De Castro said.

In a teleconference, Cimatu told De Castro that he himself took the 11-hour bus trip from Damascus to Beirut and that it was safe, although there was some delay at the border because of the many evacuees fleeing Lebanon.

De Castro also said that the United States, United Kingdom and France had agreed to help the OFWs in case the war escalated.

Gov't 'stingy'

"The problem is there are over 30,000 Filipinos who are in harm's way in Lebanon. The government response to this Lebanon crisis is woefully inadequate," Drilon said.

Drilon urged Malacañang not to be "stingy" in the use of Owwa funds, noting that the agency was created precisely to assist OFWs.

"During happy times, this government sings high praises to our OFWs, calling them modern-day heroes, because their remittances regularly keep our economy afloat. But during times of crisis and our workers need immediate assistance, Malacañang suddenly turns stingy with Owwa funds," he said. *With reports from Volt Contreras, Philip Tubeza, Cynthia D. Balana, Charlie C. Señase and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Correction

IN YESTERDAY'S issue, a story on Page A7—"Ombudsman insists it can probe Comelec execs"—misspelled the first name of the secretary of the Department of Science and Technology. The science and technology secretary's name is Estrella—not Celia—Alabastro.

* * *

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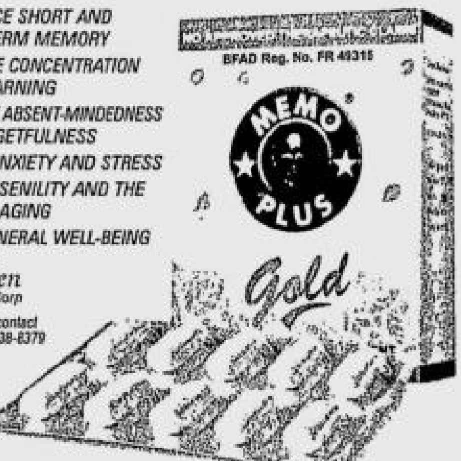

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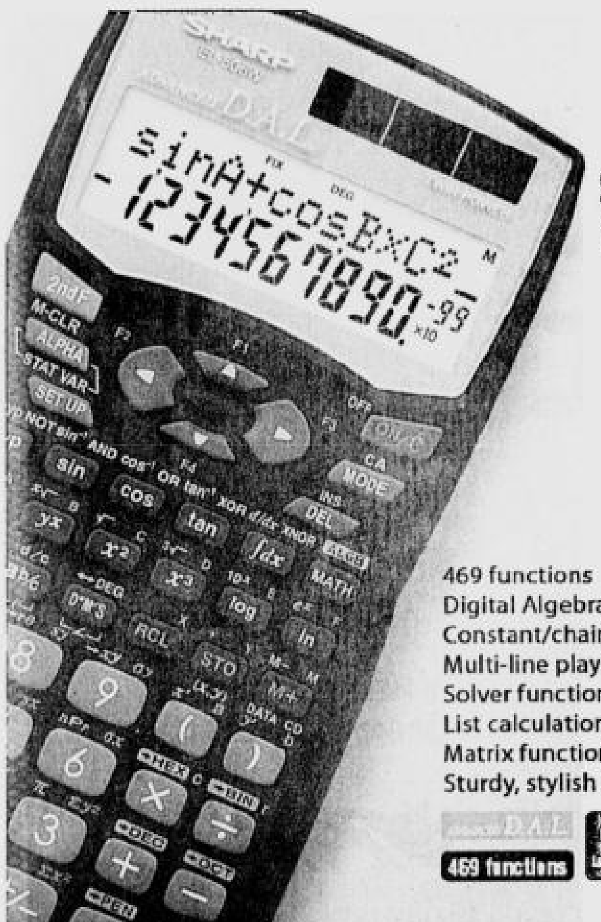

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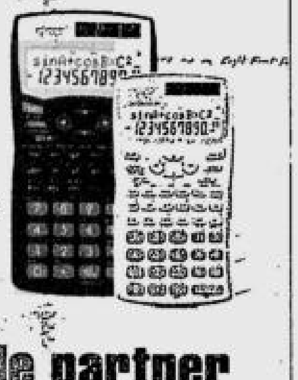

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Give your maids a rest, Human Rights Watch urges Singapore

SINGAPORE—SINGAPORE SHOULD make it mandatory for employers to give foreign maids a weekly day off, Human Rights Watch said Friday, denouncing a new non-binding contract that promotes just one day off a month for domestic helpers.

The contract's proponents said it was designed to protect maids from abuse calling it "a step in the right direction." Under current legislation, Singapore's employers are not obliged to give maids any free time.

The agreement stipulates that employers of foreign maids must give their domestic workers at least one rest day a month or compensate them with cash.

But US-based Human Rights Watch said the contract, which is not legislation, was inadequate because maids should be given a weekly day off. They will continue to be excluded from basic protections under the country's main labor laws, it added.

"Domestic workers need regular days off to rest, to escape the isolation at work and sometimes to report abuse," Nisha Varia, a senior researcher in Human Rights Watch's women's rights division, was quoted as saying in a statement on the group's Web site.

"It's shocking that an advanced economy like Singapore does not guarantee domestic workers a weekly day off," Varia said.

The clause offering employers the option of providing a day off or paying extra is liable to be abused by employers because of the "imbalance of power between employers and domestic workers," the statement added.

The contract was unveiled Thursday by two watchdog groups that oversee employment terms for maids.

"What we've done is actually an improvement from the current practice ... You have to understand employers have been having these kinds of practices for more than a decade," said Gordon La Faber, president of the Association of Employment Agencies Singapore, referring to the practice of giving no days off.

Maid agencies must implement the new contract by Sept. 15.

About 150,000 maids, mostly from Indonesia and the Philippines, are employed in Singapore, a wealthy Southeast Asian city-state. *AP*

GOODBYE MILLIONS

For failing to pay docket fees, Marcoses lose recovery case

By Armand N. Nocum

FOR FAILING TO PAY P1.3 MILLION IN docket fees, the heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos lost their chance to pursue their claim to recover hundreds of millions of pesos worth of shares of the Eastern Telecommunications Phil. Inc. from an alleged Marcos crony, the late Roberto S. Benedicto.

The Supreme Court yesterday denied with finality a petition of the Marcos heirs to nullify a 1999 Sandiganbayan resolution dismissing the recovery case that the Marcoses filed against Benedicto for their "failure or refusal" to pay the correct amount of docket fees.

When they filed the recovery case in 1998, the Marcos heirs paid a filing fee of P4,850, but failed to pay the remaining P1.3 million in docket fees as computed by the court then.

The Marcoses filed the case after Benedicto entered into a compromise agreement with the Presidential Commission on Good Government surrendering 51 percent of his equity in the ETPI, consisting of 2.7 million shares of stock, equivalent to 10.2 percent of the ETPI's total capital stock.

The shares being claimed by the Marcos heirs were then worth P100 each, or about P265.2 million, but are worth much more today.

In a decision penned by Senior Associate Justice Reynato Puno, the court cited legal jurisprudence showing that "parties filing civil actions before the Sandiganbayan are liable to pay the required docket fees."

"The rule is clear. It is not simply the filing of the appropriate initiatory pleading, but also the payment of the prescribed docket fee, that vests the trial court with jurisdiction over the subject matter or nature of the action," the court said.

The court noted that the Marcoses filed numerous motions to extend the deadline for filing their reply to the Sandiganbayan resolution, but did nothing about complying with the court order to pay the docket fees.

As a result, the high court said the 10-year prescriptive period for filing a petition elapsed.

The Marcoses had "clearly slept on their rights," it said.

Aside from the 10.2 percent block of shares from the settlement with Benedicto, the PCGG sequestered another 22.3 percent stake of ETPI from Marcos associates Manuel Nieto and Tomas Africa.

ETPI, the country's oldest phone company formerly owned by the UK-based Cable & Wireless, is now controlled by Roberto Ongpin, Marcos' former trade secretary, through his ISM Communications Corp. Smart Communications owns 9.8 percent of the firm.

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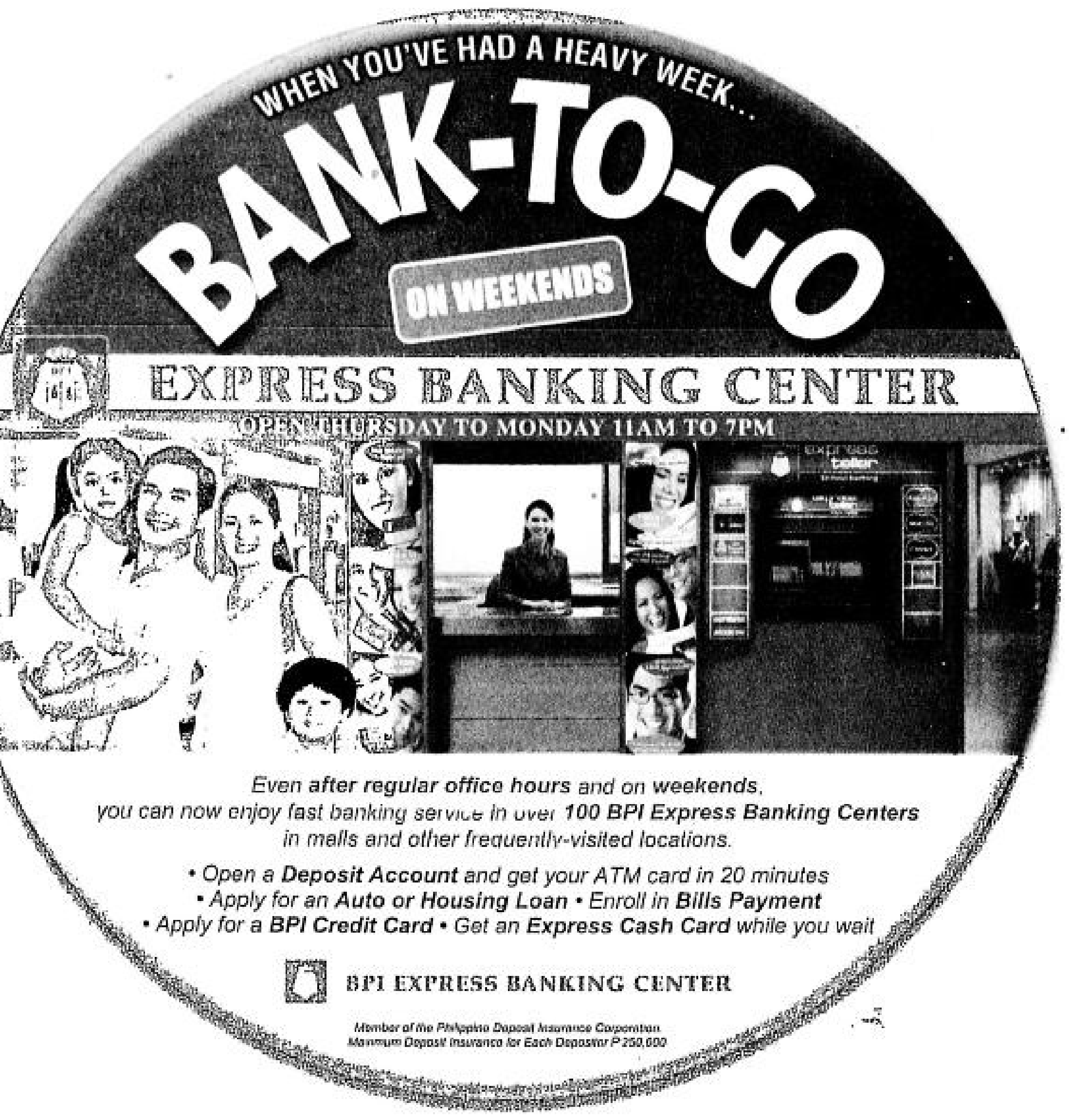
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FIFTY YEARS

Esperon: Southcom splits, one to go after NPA, other for Abu

From page A1

agement and control," Ms Arroyo said during the change of command ceremonies at Camp Aguinaldo.

Implemented in August

"Southcom is characterized by the strong presence of secessionist movements, which are now under control, but we have some terrorists that we have to address. (We will divide Southcom) for better control and to put more focus in the fight against the communist terrorists in the eastern part of Mindanao," Esperon said.

"One unified command will cover the western area, and then another area will focus on the communist terrorists ... so [the split] could be east and west," he added.

Esperon said Southcom's split might be implemented by the first week of August.

Esperon said he would make "some redeployment" of troops from other parts of the country to Mindanao to fill up the new area command. He did not say how many troops would be involved.

Unified commands

The Southcom is the biggest of the six unified commands in the military.

The others are Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) based in Tarlac, Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Quezon; National Capital Region Command (NCRCom) based in Camp Aguinaldo; Central Command (Cencom) based in Cebu; and Western Command (Wescom) based in Palawan.

Southcom is currently headed by Lt. Gen. Gabriel Habacon.

Esperon announced that Nolcom chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, who would replace him as Army chief, would be replaced by Maj. Gen. Bonifacio Ramos, former head of the Army's 8th Infantry Division.

Solcom chief Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, who will retire on July 31, will be replaced by Army 2nd ID chief Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano.

Cencom chief Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, who will retire on Sept. 17, will be replaced by Army 4th ID chief Maj. Gen. Cardozo Luna.

Glorious hour

Unable to contain his excitement on assuming the highest military post, Esperon devoted nearly half of his speech to thanking guests who came to Camp Aguinaldo to see him in his most glorious hour.

For the first 10 minutes of his speech, the former Army chief acknowledged a wide range of well-wishers—from the President to his townmates, from his predecessor Senga to his high school classmates.

As his acknowledgments went on and on, some members of the audience, including Ms Arroyo, began to smile to themselves.

Esperon, who usually assumes a stern demeanor before the media, grinned and acted like a party host throughout his long thank you's.

It started with a bark

But he was not as relaxed at the start.

Before he started his speech, and in keeping with protocol, Esperon ordered AFP Chief Sergeant Major Mario Gabriel to raise his personal flag.

The order however came out in a bark, prompting chuckles from some guests.

Reading from a prepared speech, Esperon thanked the VIPs first, starting with Ms Arroyo, then former President Fidel V. Ramos, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., House Speaker Jose de Venecia and Sen. Richard Gordon.

When it came to thanking the provincial governors who flew in from Mindanao for the occasion, Esperon looked behind him to look for his governor-friends among the audience.

He even thanked "the others who will be arriving."

He saw retired Gen. Jose Bello, head of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo), and thanked him as well.

He included his in-laws when he thanked his family. He also acknowledged his townmates from his hometown of Asingan, Pangasinan.

Then he thanked a number of prominent businessmen from various business groups.

He went on to acknowledge former classmates from the Philippine Science High School, whom he asked to stand up, to the applause of the audience. Then he greeted his classmates in the Philippine Military Academy Class 1974, the foreign armed forces attache corps, the media and—finally—the plain soldiers.

Giddy

Settling down to business, Esperon vowed to defeat the communist insurgency, undertake rapid buildup of forces for the frontlines and look after soldiers' welfare.

Later, when Ms Arroyo in her speech publicly praised her former Presidential Security Group commander, Esperon was back to his giddy self.

Ms Arroyo acknowledged Esperon as the first PSG commander who became the AFP chief of staff.

The departing Senga stoically listened to the President's expression of thanks to him for rejecting overtures by rebel officers to lead the military in withdrawing support from her last February.

"I give General Senga credit for containing, then neutralizing, and finally demolishing the infamous February coup," said Ms Arroyo. Senga gave a small nod.

Esperon also acknowledged Senga's actions during the Feb. 24 attempted coup.

'We'll destroy NPA'

"Under your leadership, you made sure that destabilizers will not succeed," Esperon said, addressing his predecessor.

Ms Arroyo exuded with confidence when she spoke about Esperon as her new military chief.

"With Jun at the helm ... we shall destroy the armed capability of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army), remove their logistics bases and dismantle their support networks." *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Philippine flag protects Pinoys in East Timor

From page A1

rest after the government fired 40 percent of its soldiers from the military, and soon renegade soldiers and government troops were engaged in violent clashes.

Layon said the attack was most likely already a "summation of the paranoia" that gripped Dili, the only place in East Timor where the police organization collapsed.

"I'm not so familiar with the conflict but we all felt that our efforts imploded and went to waste in Dili," Layon said.

"Our fellow Filipinos kept on calling us for advice. We told them to just stay put in their homes. But then, some buildings and homes were being burned down," Layon said.

The Filipinos found refuge and protection in a Philippine symbol often taken for granted—the Philippine flag.

"Everybody respected the Philippine flag there. They would not attack a home or a vehicle that had a flag on it," Layon said.

"Filipinos are liked by everybody in East Timor," he said.

Attack on UN convoy

On the day they were attacked, Layon said the UN team had negotiated for a ceasefire between the forces fighting right outside the police headquarters.

"There were five Filipinos trapped there, which was why I had to go," Layon said.

They collected the firearms of some 80 police officers and placed these in a UN car.

Layon was in front of the convoy, together with a military official, taking photographs of the event as it unfolded.

On the way to headquarters, a soldier on the road recognized one of the police officers in Layon's group, shot him, and it was then that all hell broke loose.

Lucky flak jacket

Layon said he was lucky that his flak jacket protected him from shrapnel. A bullet hit him where his flak jacket ended.

"Someone later told me that the shooting stopped only after I stood up and shouted 'Ceasefire!'"

He returned to Manila on Thursday night, following a medical repatriation.

'Waste of life'

Layon told the INQUIRER that he cried over the "waste of life" that he saw in Dili.

It happened a few weeks after the incident, during a TV interview with the Australian Broadcasting Corp. (ABC).

He was asked to recount what had happened that bloody afternoon of May 25, and soon after, he felt tears running down his cheeks.

"It was just the waste of life," Layon said, explaining the tears. "Just the waste of life."

Brains splatter

He still vividly remembers the horrifying scene of the attack, made eerie by the silence that surrounded them after the attack.

"There were brains splattered on the car, on the ground. You could hear moaning. One was waving his hand as if asking for help. It was a very morbid scene. Everyone was quiet. I felt everybody just wanted to cry," Layon said.

Shrapnel grazed his right temple, and a bullet pierced his left hip.

But Layon managed to walk some 200 meters away from the scene before he was picked up and brought to the hospital.

He was later airlifted to the Darwin Private Hospital in Australia where he underwent major surgery.

The bullet that hit him had splintered into eight different pieces, damaging his intestines.

It was the first time in his more than 30 years as a military police that he was hit in an encounter.

He graduated from the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) in 1982, became part of the Police Constabulary, later the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Volunteered

He volunteered for UN work mainly for "economic reasons," Layon said. But he also knew that his work could have far-reaching benefits for many people.

Before his UN assignment in Dili, he was the chief of police in Lucena City.

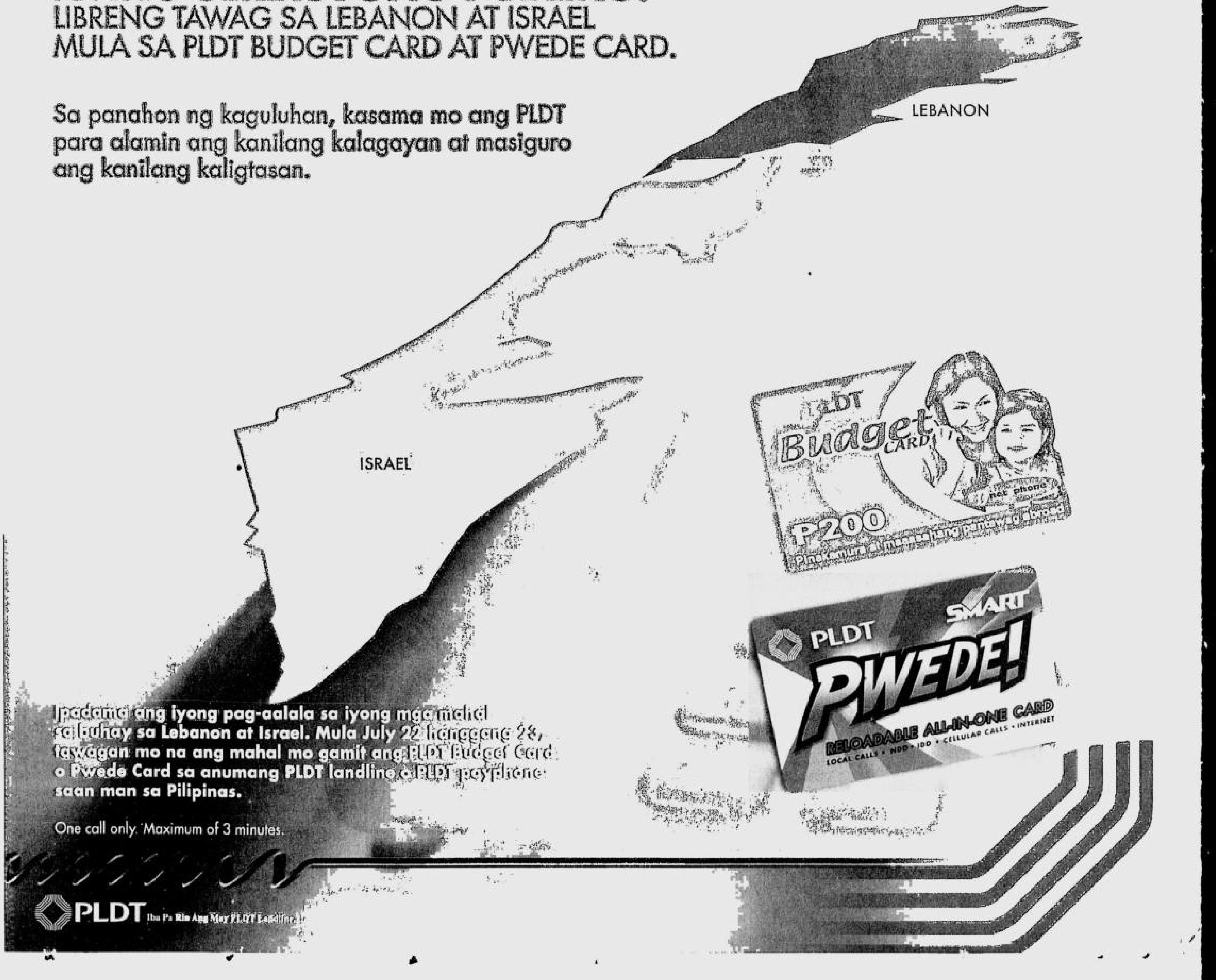
Layon recovered from his wounds in a week, and he surmised it was because he was physically fit and generally in good health, Layon said.

He said a UN official told him that on Aug. 20, the Philippines may send a 100-man humanitarian mission to East Timor. Would he volunteer again?

Options open

Layon said he is keeping his options open. He would also want to serve here in the Philippines, he said.

And while he's deciding what to do next, he would be spending quality time with his wife, Rochelle, and their three children.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Gov't to implement nat'l ID system soonest, says GMA

By Christine O. Avendano

IT'S NOW ALL SYSTEMS GO.

After the Supreme Court gave the go-signal to its implementation, the government would now immediately push through with the adoption of a national identification system for all government agencies and government-owned and controlled corporations.

"This paves the way for the full implementation of the National ID system which is a strategic lynchpin of both national security and social justice to secure our communities from terror and crime and at the same time, facilitate the delivery of basic services to the people," President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday in a speech during the turnover of command ceremonies of the Armed Forces of the Philippines at Camp Aguinaldo.

The President thanked the Supreme Court for ruling with finality on the constitutionality of the national ID system the other day and asked the people to rally behind its implementation.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the national ID system would "eventually" be implemented nationwide.

Ms Arroyo, who signed Executive Order No. 420 in April 2005 seeking the adoption of a national ID system, said the country stood to gain from such system "in terms of political stability, economic growth and global competitiveness."

She said that she was aware of the issues being raised against the national ID system and assured that it "carries all the safeguards to protect the rights of every citizen under the law."

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, who had pushed for a national ID system in the '90s, underscored the need for the government to expand the coverage of the national ID system.

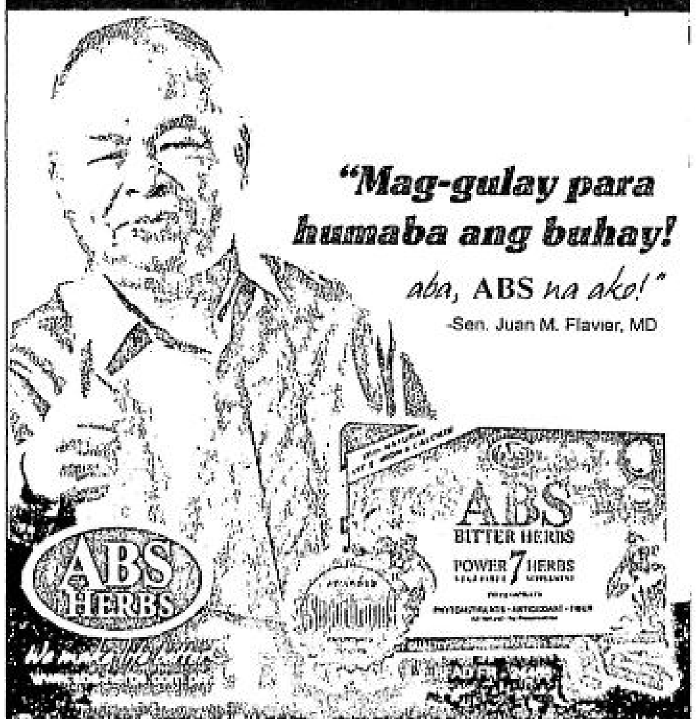
"It should be countrywide for all, including teenagers and from the private sector," said Ramos, adding that with a national ID, "it shows that you're a member of that republic, of that democracy."

He suggested that the national ID system should cover people as young as 15 years of age because they are qualified to vote for the Sangguniang Kabataan.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said the National Economic Coordinating Council would oversee the implementation of the national ID system.

Aside from government employees, the ID system would be implemented on those who would volunteer to be covered, he said.

Militants had strongly opposed the national ID system.



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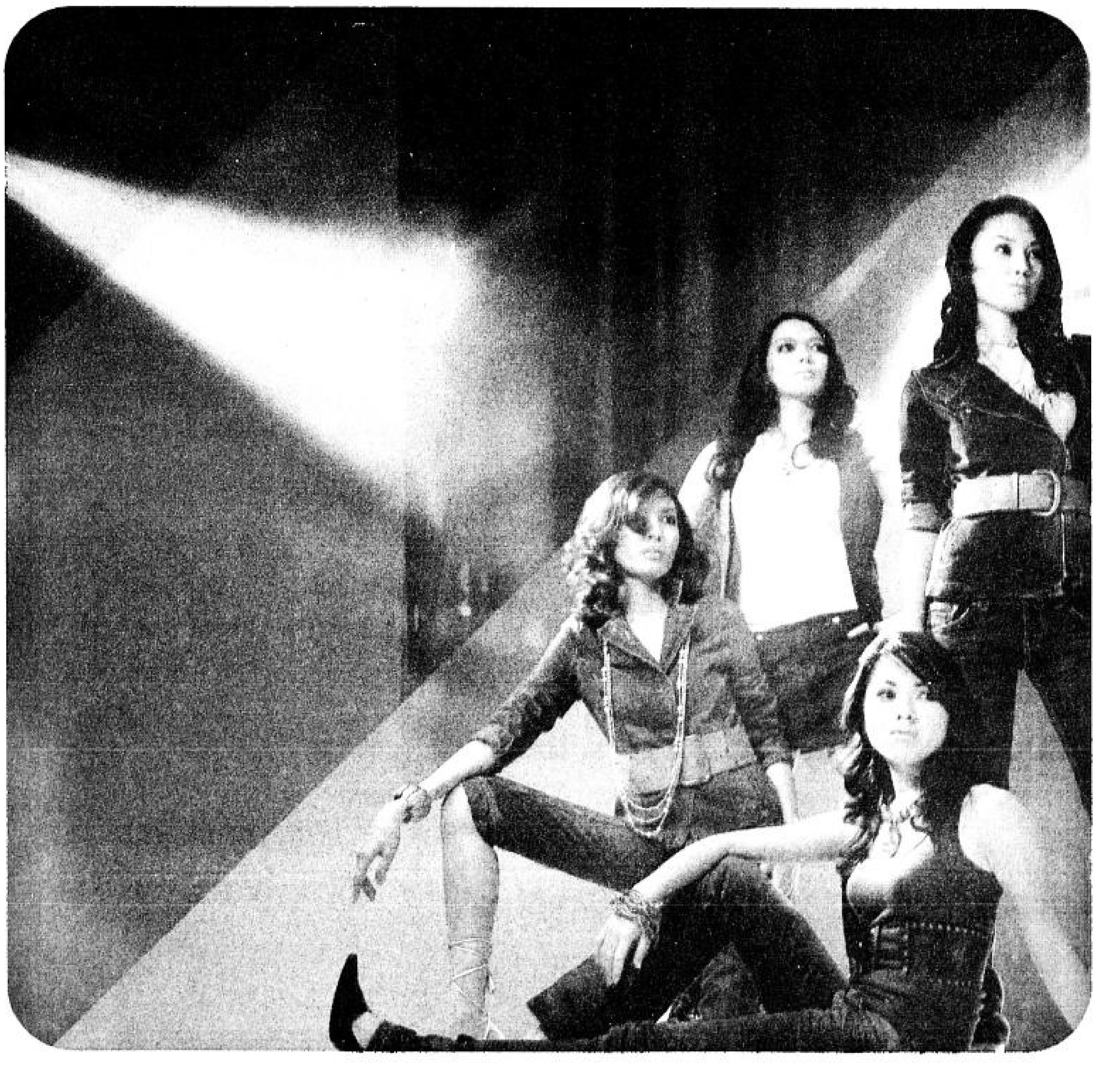
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SC: President has power to appoint CCP board

THE SUPREME COURT HAS UPheld the power of the President of the Philippines to appoint members of the board of trustees of the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP).

In a 32-page decision, the court struck down as unconstitutional two sections of Presidential Decree No. 15 on the CCP charter which state that vacancies in the board shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining trustees.

The case stemmed from the appointment of two sets of CCP board of trustees, called the Endriga group and the Rufino group in 1995 and 1998, respectively.

The first group, led by former CCP president Baltazar N. Endriga, was appointed in 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos. Their appointment papers stated their terms would last only until Dec. 31, 1998.

On Dec. 22, 1998, then President Joseph Estrada wrote Endriga that the board was being replaced with seven new appointees, or by the so-called Rufino group.

The Endriga group questioned the appointment. It argued that sections 6 (b) and (c) of the CCP charter provided that vacancies in the board shall be filled by "a vote of a majority of the trustees" and that it is only when the CCP board is entirely vacant that the President may fill such vacancies.

They said that since their term was for four years and only one seat was vacant, Estrada could not appoint a new board.

The Court of Appeals sustained their position and the Rufino group went up to the SC.

By 10-3 vote

In a decision penned by Justice Antonio T. Carpio and approved by a 10-3 vote, the high court held that the disputed sections are "irreconcilably inconsistent" with the Constitution.

The high court pointed out that the assailed provisions of PD 15 allow the remaining trustees to elect their fellow trustees. On the other hand, it said, Article VII, Sec. 16 of the Constitution grants the power to appoint officers lower in rank only to the President or to heads of departments, agencies, commissions, or boards.

The SC said this excludes appointment by an officer equal in rank.

Presidential power

"Thus, insofar as it authorizes the trustees of the CCP Board to elect their co-trustees, Sections 6 (b) and (c) of PD 15 is unconstitutional," it said.

It further said that the two sections make the CCP trustees "the independent appointing power of their fellow trustees" and this conflicts with the President's power to appoint.

The court also ruled that the CCP falls under the executive branch, over which the President exercises control.

While the CCP charter vests the CCP with autonomy of policy and operation, it does not free the CCP from the President's control, the court said.

Pro and con

The ruling was concurred in by Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban and Justices Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, Ma. Alicia Austria-Martinez, Renato C. Corona, Romeo J. Callejo, Jr., Minita V. Chico-Nazario, Cancio C. Garcia and Presbitero J. Velasco Jr.

Justice Conchita Carpio Morales took no part, while Justice Adolfo S. Azcuna was on leave.

Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, and Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing and Dante O. Tinga dissented.

Tinga's view

Tinga argued that it is the CCP board which is vested with the power to appoint its members as provided for under the CCP charter.

Tinga said the majority ruling in effect expanded the scope of executive power by giving the President the power to remove officials whose terms have been fixed by law even prior to the cessation of their terms in office.

GMA keeping promise to 3 Sona kids, says Dinky

From page A1

the Payatas garbage slide in 2000—the government has pretty much kept its promise to the Sona boys, said former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

Special kids

"On the whole, they really are special kids," she told the INQUIRER yesterday. "Had they not written the letters, they would not have gotten the educational and livelihood support that they're enjoying now."

Jayson, 15, and Erwin, 14, are among the top at a Diliman school and the Payatas High School, respectively, said Soliman, who last met the three boys shortly before she resigned in July last year.

Jomer, 15, once saddled by family problems that were reflected on his grades, has been showing steady improvement in school, she said.

It helped that the Department of Social Welfare and Development extended regular counseling to Jomer's father, an erstwhile alcoholic reportedly showing symptoms of domestic violence, she said.

The volatile domestic situation supposedly explained why the Pabalans' livelihood, a modest gas stove repair shop in their community in Kasiglahan Village, Rizal, never really prospered despite seed money from the government.

Counseling

"Counseling sessions focused not just on business but also on how to run a family," she said.

Fortunately for Jayson, Jomer and Erwin, bureaucratic discontinuity didn't hamper the help the government had promised to give them.

Soliman, now a vocal critic of Ms Arroyo, said her successor, Esperanza Cabral, has been quietly fulfilling the promise to the Sona boys, without that riotous publicity that generally goes with government programs.

To this day, she said the government continues to shoulder the kids' educational expenses in a school of their choice, a commitment until they finish college.

They were among some 360 scholars from Payatas who were similarly victimized by the avalanche of trash on July 10, 2000. About 40 of them have already finished high school, Soliman said.

Seed money

On top of the educational assistance, each of the families of these children had also been granted a P10,000 seed money to begin livelihood, she said.

No longer part of the government for about a year now, Soliman still spoke with natural affinity and concern about the kids.

For four years since 2001, she said she would meet them regularly whenever they went to the DSWD office for their monthly stipend. DSWD officials would also check on the kids' education before the start of the school year, she said.

"The last time I saw them, they were all much bigger than I was," said the diminutive former Cabinet secretary.

Weight of media attention

Soliman described as a "very sensitive and intelligent boy" Jayson whose entire family was buried in the Payatas tragedy. More than a year ago, his grandmother Anacleta passed away, leaving the boy under the care of an aunt.

"He really has a bright future, probably as a technical person, say, an engineer," Soliman said.

Besides the tragedy, the Sona boys were probably similarly haunted by the prospect of collapsing under the weight of government, public and media expectation to succeed.

It's a dilemma that overwhelmed Mang Pandoy, the poster boy of poverty during the Ramos administration.

Despite monetary support and media attention, the old man and his family never really took off.

Jayson, Jomer and Erwin appeared to be trying a different tack to reverse their fate.

Every year since the Sona of 2001, they have been gradually staying out of media's and politicians' prying eyes, preferring to concentrate on the serious job ahead.

Soliman said she had regrets for unnecessarily exposing them to fleeting popularity in her capacity as Ms Arroyo's key Cabinet secretary.

Time was when the kids would be chased by television cameras in their school and home, on top of answers that appeared to dissect even the sensitive aspects of their tragic condition.

Hiding by malling

One time, she said reporters trailed the boys for three days straight. "*Inaraw-araw sila!* I was so mortified!" she recalled.

Later on, Soliman tried to correct the situation by "hiding" the kids from the media whenever Sona day approached.

"I didn't want them to be lionized by the media," she said. "What we would do before was to arrange an outing or a trip at the mall for them during Sona."

This year, there was no telling if the boys would remain untracked. But should they refuse a media interview or photo shoot, bet they simply want to mind a more serious business.

Another militant shot in Isabela

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE BLOOD OF LEFTIST LEADER MADONNA Castillo had barely dried up when another militant found himself fighting for his life in Isabela province yesterday.

Benjamin Luzano, 52, a member of the left-leaning Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas and a barangay official was shot and wounded around 3 p.m. at a market in Ilagan town, the KMP said.

The report could not be immediately verified at press time.

"Madonna's (body) has gone back home, but another KMP member has been attacked," Carl Ala, KMP spokesperson, said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Same modus operandi

Luzano is now at the Ilagan provincial hospital, Ala said. "He is in critical condition and needs type O blood," Ala said.

Ala said it appeared that the same modus operandi used on Castillo, secretary general of Anakpawis-Isabela and Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela-Echague, was employed against Luzano.

Castillo was about to attend her classes at the Isabela State University when she was shot by two men on Thursday morning. She died 11 hours later at a local hospital.

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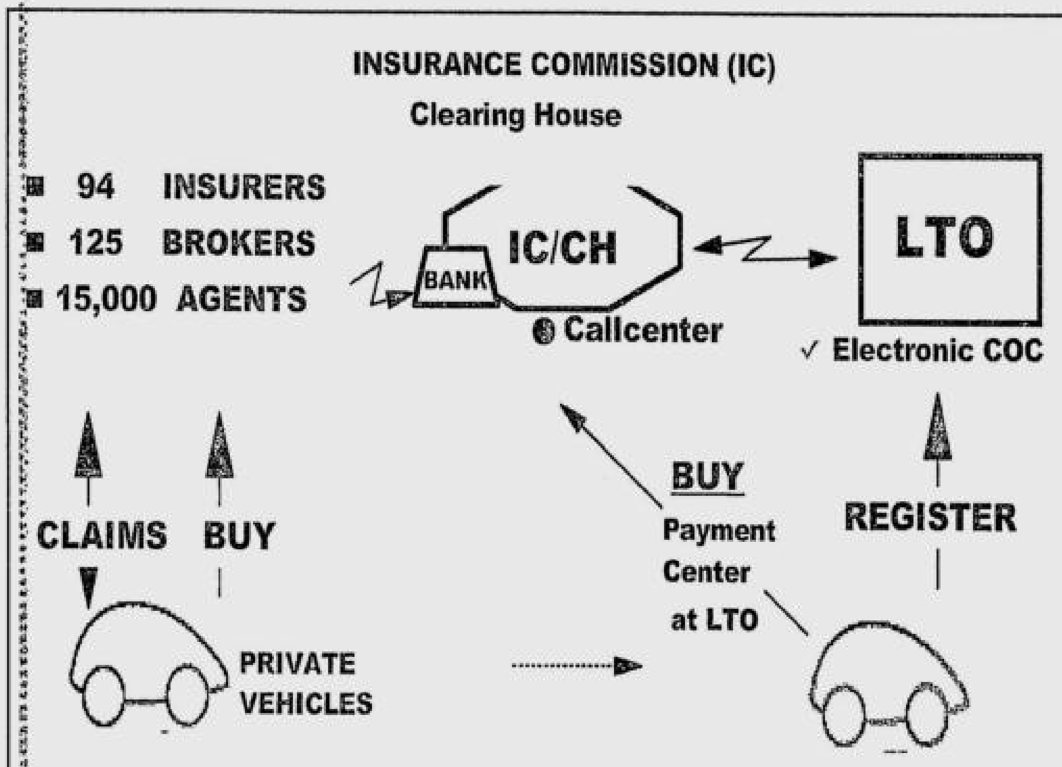

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Mike A coming home Sunday

FIRST GENTLEMAN JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO is scheduled to return to Manila tomorrow from a "family vacation" in the United States, just in time to be at the side of President Macapagal-Arroyo in her State of the Nation Address at the Batasang Pambansa on Monday.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the First Gentleman's return should allow him to clear speculations that he went to the US to help his fellow Rotarian former agriculture undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante who has been under detention in Los Angeles by US Immigration officials for the last two weeks.

Arroyo's spokesperson Juris Soliman said the First Gentleman stayed the whole time in San Francisco with eldest son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo, and family.

Artist Boy Togonon writes '30' at 55

ROMEO "BOY" TOGONON, ONE OF THE country's top editorial cartoonists, art director, publication designer and artist, died of heart attack Thursday night. He was 55 years old.

"Boy Togs," as he is fondly called by colleagues and friends, had a prolific career after graduating with a Fine Arts degree from the University of Santo Tomas in 1971. He started his career with the now-defunct Daily Express publications where he rose to become art director.

Togonon is acknowledged for his skill not only as an editorial cartoonist but as a publication designer. He was among the founding group that put up the former Daily Tribune after the EDSA '86 People Power uprising as art director cartoonist; then the Daily Globe where he served as art and production director and editorial cartoonist. This was followed by stints at the Manila Chronicle and The Sun-Star Manila.

At the time of his death, Togonon was editorial cartoonist of The Manila Times; director of the National Press Club; and director-public relations officer of the Billiards and Snooker Congress of the Philippines, the national association for billiard sports.

He is survived by wife Sonia, sons Leonardo "Ardie," Romeo Francesco "Franz" and Michaelangelo "Mickey," sister Sylvia and husband Wenceslao Sampayan, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

His remains lie in state at St. Joseph Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels along Sucat Road in Parañaque and will be brought to the National Press Club of the Philippines for necrological services on July 27-28.

Burial is on July 29 at the Manila Memorial Park.

SGV grand homecoming on Monday

SGV & CO. WILL CELEBRATE ITS 60th anniversary with a grand alumni homecoming on Monday, July 24, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

All SGV employees from 1946 to 2006 are invited to attend the cocktail reception.

For details, contact Sabrina Calayan at 891-0307 local 8526 or Mona Fenix at 891-0307 local 7766, or email sgv60.alumni@ph.ey.com/ www.sgvalumni.com.ph/alumnisgv.asp.

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The GSIS-General Insurance Bids and Awards Committee (GIBAC), thru its Technical Working Group (TWG) is inviting qualified local and foreign reinsurance companies who are registered with the Government Electronic Procurement System (GEPS) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the renewal of reinsurance for the PNOC-EDC's Fire & Allied Perils Policy with Sabotage & Terrorism Cover for a period of twelve months at September 1, 2006 at 00.01 A. M. Local Standard Time.

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SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
July 24, 2006 - Aug. 1, 2006 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM GIBAC Secretariat OSVP-GIG, 5th Flr, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	August 2, 2006 9:00 AM Molave Room 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	August 8, 2006 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM Molave Room 8th Floor, GSIS Bldg., Roxas Blvd., Pasay City

That as of bidding date, August 8, 2006, the premium quotation has support of 100% of the 60% reinsurance. The market selected for the lead reinsurer should have a rating equivalent to a "very good financial strength" provided by a rating company accredited and acceptable to the insurance market industry as of Dec. 31, 2005 and with the rest of the reinsurers having the same rating as the lead reinsurer or a rating equivalent to a "good financial strength" provided by a rating company accredited and acceptable to the insurance market industry as of December 31, 2005, attaching copies of confirmed placement of the reinsurers share on or before the bidding date.

Eligibility and bid documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to Apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P10,000.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor of GSIS.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bid, sufficiency of Bid Security, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of existing laws, rules and regulations. Only applicants who paid bid fees shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and submit Bid proposals.

The GSIS thru the GIBAC reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or part thereof, or waive any defect contained therein and may accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid.

July 22, 2006, Pasay City, Philippines.

GIBAC Chairman

July 22 & 28, 2006
(Note: This supersedes publication dated July 15, 2006)

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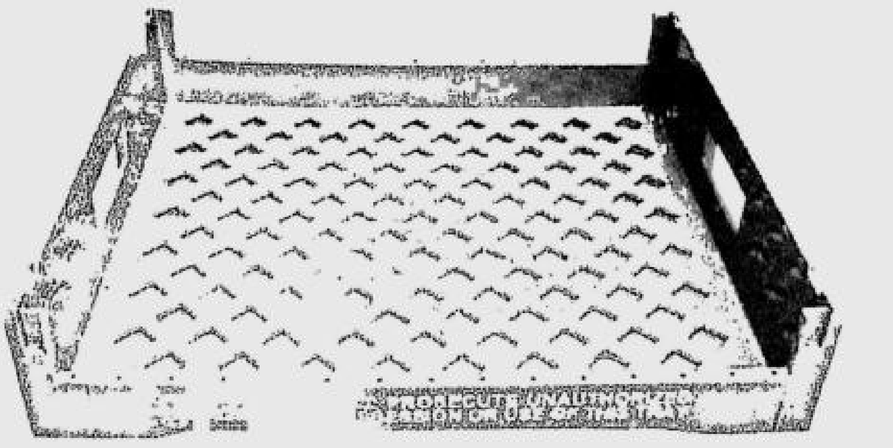

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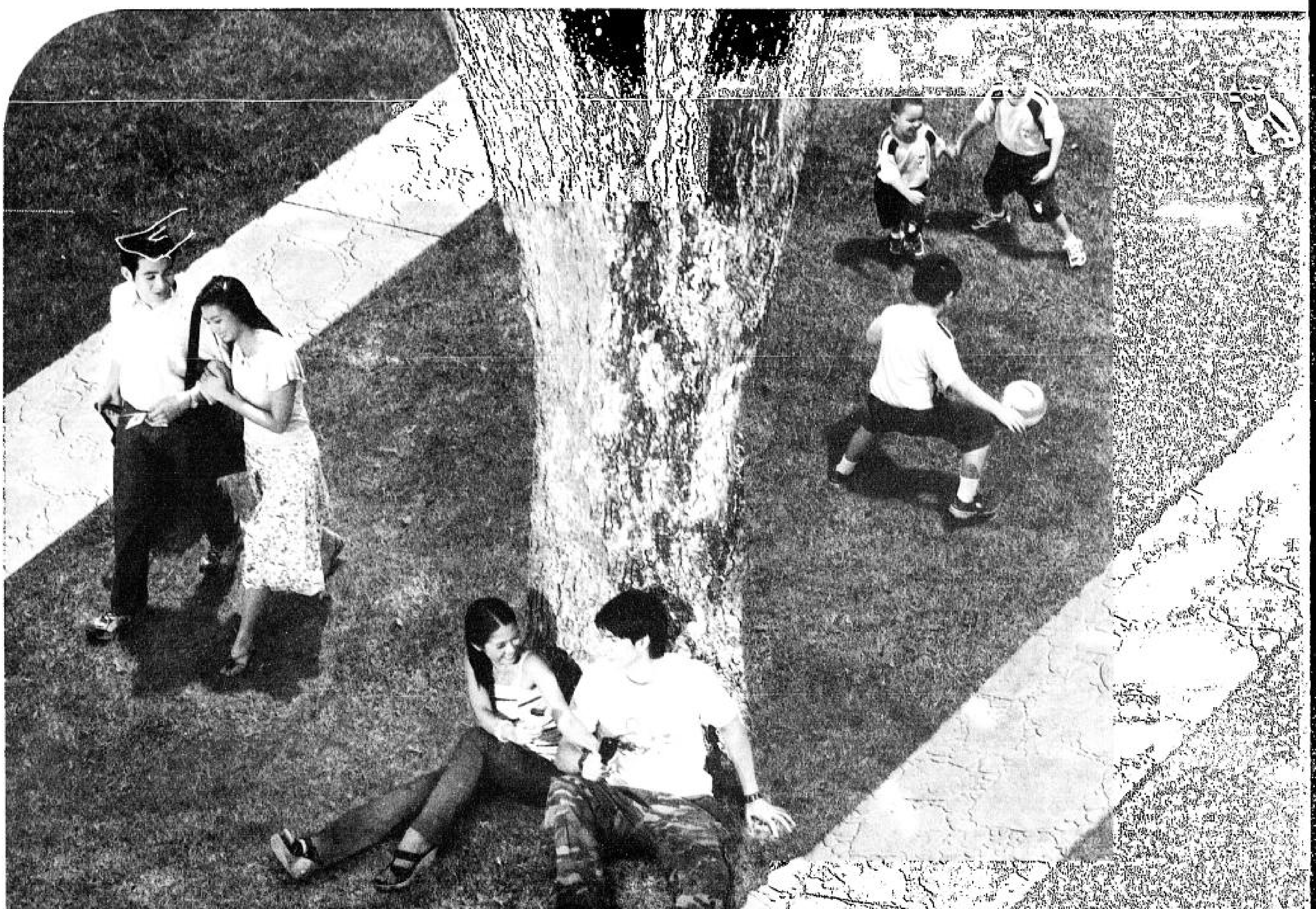

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Myopia

THE FIRST BATCH OF FILIPINO REFUGEES FROM Lebanon are expected in Manila today, a day later than originally expected. Their arrival marks the end of a horrifying journey overland from Beirut to Damascus and on to Manila on a chartered Emirates Airlines flight. It also marks the start of another journey: that of starting life anew.

EDITORIAL

No one begrudges the $300,000 spent by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration to charter the Emirates aircraft; if there's any criticism at all, it's that government has been remarkably sluggish in its response to the Lebanon crisis. The consequences of this are evident in everything from surely having to pay a premium to charter aircraft to fly into danger zones at short notice to Ambassador Roy Cimatu wending his lonely—and painfully slow—way to the front, to official policy being basically to ask everyone not to shoot and pray that the shooting stops.

When Britain went to war against Argentina, the Cunard company, owner of the luxury liner Queen Elizabeth 2, had its flagship taken over and transformed into a troopship, as part of a deal dating back to the construction of the ship with the assistance of government funds. The global exposure of Filipinos suggests that Congress look into the franchises of Filipino-owned airlines and shipping companies so that their fleet can be drafted for immediate use in future emergencies.

Whatever unfolds in Lebanon, the unsatisfactory response of the government shows how easily past gains are dissipated. Past evacuations and responses to Middle East crises by our government were on the whole, swift, responsive and responsible. That the achievements haven't been institutionalized must be squarely confronted as a failure of leadership, policy and planning. While the initial confusion and lack of a sense of urgency seem to be finally giving way to a more concerted—even valiant—effort, too much ground has been lost. And in the effort to do something in Lebanon, the big picture's being dangerously ignored.

What is the big picture? Writing in The Arab News newspaper, INQ7.net columnist Rasheed Abou-Alsamh points out a couple of crucial things. There is something terribly wrong, in his opinion, over the government's reluctance to call for a mandatory evacuation of Filipinos in Lebanon. Reporting as he does from Jeddah, Abou-Alsamh can paint a graphic and dismaying picture of conditions in Beirut: "Gasoline is running out, electrical power is intermittent and cell phone networks have been knocked out by the Israeli air raids. Israel has bombed Lebanon into oblivion and it seems their campaign will continue for weeks, if not months, to come. A full-scale invasion of southern Lebanon by Israel is highly likely in the next few weeks if they don't succeed in degrading Hezbollah's capabilities of shelling Israel."

So far, there's only a trickle of Filipinos coming home. The majority, our government says, want to take their chances. The government has committed to respecting their wishes, but in doing so, it has allowed those Filipinos to stay in harm's way and made their rescue much more difficult when, as the Department of Foreign Affairs puts it, evacuation will become mandatory as house-to-house fighting begins.

The attention being paid to Filipinos in Beirut shouldn't detract attention from other Filipinos in the war zone: those in Israel. Abou-Alsamh accuses the United Philippine Manpower Agencies to Israel Association of acting irresponsibly for saying "everything is normal" in the city of Haifa, the third largest Israeli city, even as it is being subjected to bombardment by Hezbollah. If the deployment of Filipino workers to Lebanon has been stopped, why is it still going on for Israel? And should conflict spread, what are the government's plans for the Filipinos in the entire Middle East? And God forbid we even contemplate a conflict closer to home, but it's government's job to plan for the unthinkable. We had hoped that security jitters over North Korea would lead to the drafting of contingency measures for the legions of Filipinos in Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong. But no such luck.

More frightening then than the emerging conflict in Lebanon is the short-sightedness, the myopia, of Philippine officialdom it has exposed.

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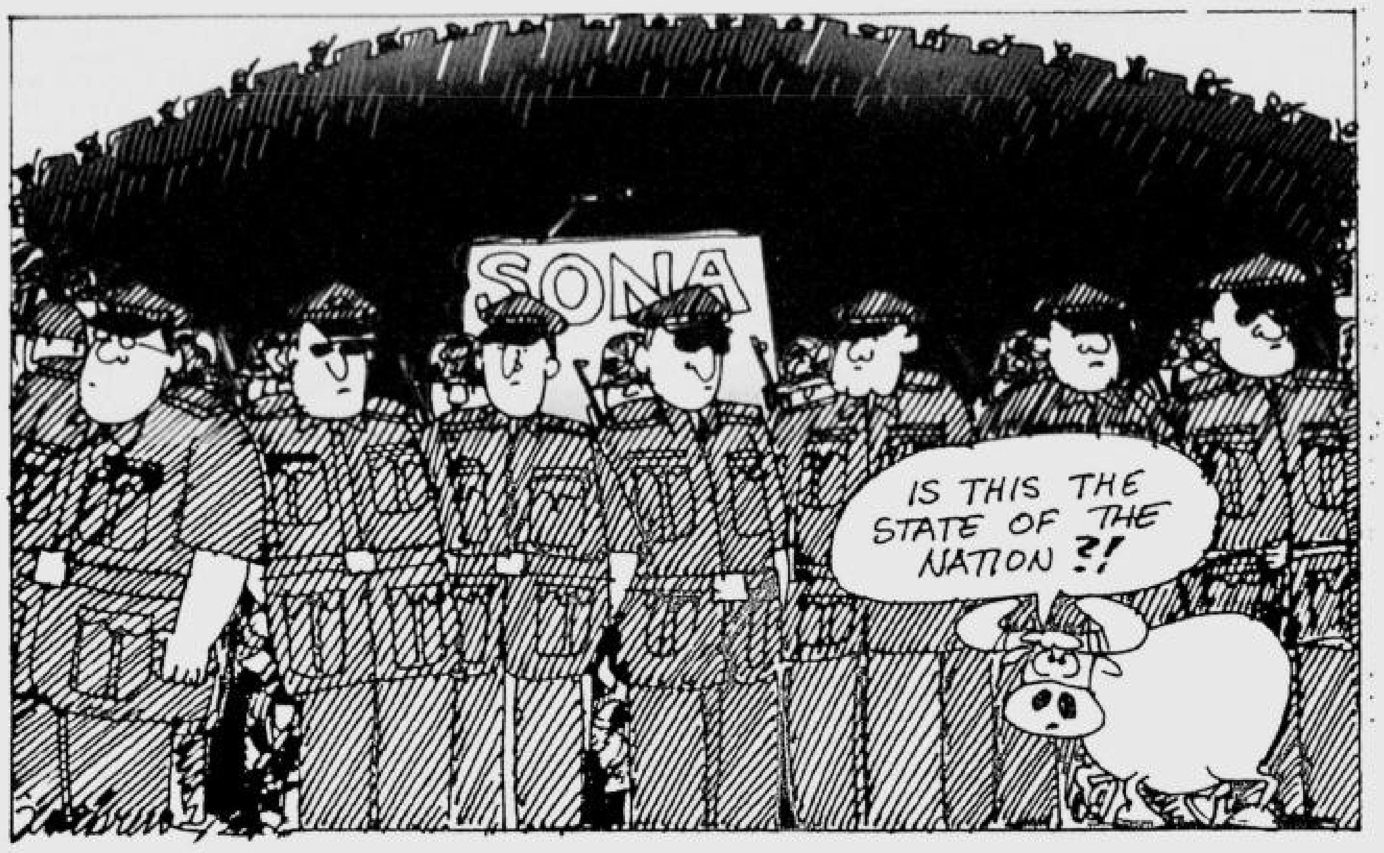

SONA
IS THIS THE STATE OF THE NATION ?!

Where is the remote?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

AS I EXPECTED, AT LEAST ONE READER expressed umbrage when I considered adjustable entertainers responsible for the sad state of the nation (PDI, 6/17/06). He throws the blame instead on the law profession, which has never strutted on the comic stage like some actor politicians. If that is the best he can do to defend his questionable colleagues, it deserves no more than this short dismissal. So let me go now to less paltry things.

I said sometime ago that in the United States more people voted for the American Idol than in the last presidential election. Not to be outdone, and in keeping with our imitative obsession, we are also preparing to choose our own Filipino Idol for the nation's diversion. Many presumptuous "idols" are already rehearsing their hopeful talents for the coveted fame.

I do not blame them for this innocent ambition. It is far better than drug addiction or drag racing or graffiti scrawling. I am just distressed that the pleasures of our young people have changed so drastically over the years, and mostly not for the better. Several generations ago, during a more pensive time, the youth had more serious purposes than superficial thrills.

During those vanished years, young men like Carlos P. Romulo and his equally brilliant companions toured the United States as a debating team that bested their opponents in their own turf. Other Filipinos of their age were less interested as they are now in the enticements of the silver screen or what was then popularly called the "vod-a-vil." Their principal concern was the improvement of their minds as tools for the enhancement of their and, by extension, the country's future.

As late as during my time as an adolescent in the last century, college students, and even those in high school, were more interested in intellectual rather than athletic exercises as extra-curricular activities. Debates, oratorical contests, and writing competitions drew the students' thoughtful attention and prepared many of them for the political and civic leadership they would later assume.

Even those with more limited talents were no less determined to improve their intellectual capabilities. Not to be excellent, which was not within their reach, but to be merely competent to be able to help at least if not to lead. Proof of this resolve was in the public libraries, which were frequented regularly by young readers unlike now where similar conveniences are hardly visited and gather dust instead of borrowers.

It was in this atmosphere of scholarly pursuits that young people then enriched their time. Wenceslao Vinzons and Arturo Tolentino, assisted by the beautiful Carmen Planas, formed the Young Philippines to challenge the dominant political parties then. Jose B. Laurel Jr. gained initial prominence in a famous intercollegiate oratorical contest that featured formidable rivals. UP's Ferdinand Marcos, UST's Diosdado Macapagal and UM's Emmanuel Pelaez excelled in the bar examinations. Jose Garcia Villa was already recognized as the dove and the lion of the young crop of Filipino writers in English. Renato Constantino was yet to lead a new activism in the student arena at Padre Faura.

The youth fought heroically in Bataan and Corregidor and in the guerrilla fastnesses against the Japanese intruders. That spirit of resistance became equally defiant against a new kind of tyranny under martial law that was more pathetic and vicious because it was imposed by a Filipino upon his own countrymen. Hundreds if not thousands of young men and women, Filipinos all, perished not from alien brutality but at the hands of Filipino oppressors.

But the youth were not daunted. Their indignation and courage resurrected the spirit of Rizal's time when he and his gallant compatriots—Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto, Fathers Burgos and Gomez, Aguinaldo and a host of other patriots in the prime of their youth—dared the enemies of their race, many to the death.

Rizal especially, with his lavish intellectual gifts, faced an enticing future he could have enjoyed to a ripe old age of serenity and respect, even from the Spanish despots. Instead, he chose martyrdom at the age of 35 and inspired a young generation of patriots to similar heroism. They were the answer to Padre Florentino's search for the youth of the land who would "dedicate their innocence, their idealism, and their enthusiasm to the good of the country."

Save for a small admirable minority (like the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippine Alumni Community), the young men and women today are bland merry-makers without heed for the country's welfare but only for their own comfort. They also have their own questions but they are shallow and impertinent like "Where is the remote?" They don't care much about the initiative or the Bill of Rights but know all about, alas, the basketball hotshots and the Pinay Pie.

Gringo plays Pied Piper

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

THE JULY 15 AFFIDAVIT OF 1ST LT. LAWRENCE San Juan must be added to the Lopez Report and the transcript of Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim's "withdrawal of support" video to get a better picture of the events leading to two national crises: the Oakwood "incident" and the Feb. 26 "standoff" (both euphemisms for failed military coup attempts). I have copies of these documents only because the research team of the GMA TV show "Debate" that I co-host provided me with them, so one can only wish that in the same manner that the Garci tapes and their transcripts were posted in toto on the Internet, these too would be posted, for the public's benefit.

Since last week's column dealt with the second and third documents, let us focus on the first (San Juan's affidavit). It makes for fascinating reading, because not only does it give us a fly-on-the-wall sense of being a witness to the events but it also gives us good insights into the major characters in San Juan's recounting.

One of the more obvious conclusions that can be drawn from San Juan's narration is that Gringo Honasan was a major influence in both these crises. He was the resurrected Pied Piper of Hamelin, playing on the idealism of young officers, exercising some kind of fatal attraction on them, using a mixture of stories and rituals (the fascination of a secret club-boys will be boys) to inspire/brainwash them.

Consider: During San Juan's first meeting with Capt. Milo Maestrecampo (who asked for a one-on-one in Zamboanga City, where San Juan was stationed) in late 2002, the latter already mentioned Gringo's name, asking what San Juan thought of him. At their second meeting, also in Zamboanga, there were three other junior officers present, obviously also recruits of Maestrecampo—and this time, Gringo himself was present to make the pitch. Honasan gave them his version of what was behind the 1986, 1987 and 1989 "revolution" (another romanticized euphemism for coup attempts) and talked about the need for reforms. The young officers were then asked if they were interested in fighting for the cause of reforms and genuine change. Guess what their answers would be?

The third meeting (all within the same month—it was hard sell time) was in Manila. This time, there were even more junior officers, all from PMA Classes '95 to '98, including Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes and James Layug. Again, Gringo was there, as was former Navy Capt. Felix Turingan, another participant in previous failed coups. This is where Gringo introduced the rituals: use of code names (Gringo was "*kuya*"), oaths, prayers and finally the signing of names in blood. Not just pin-prick blood, mind you, but blood drawn with a "tanto knife" or "shortened samurai" used to inscribe a "K" in the left inner arm. And not an ordinary "K," mind you, it had to be in Alibata or ancient Filipino script. The drama was further heightened at that point: Turingan urged Honasan not to demonstrate on himself, as he still had fresh wounds, and Honasan ignored the advice. When Honasan lifted his arm to scrape out the K, lo and behold, there were several marks, some of them still fresh. How OA can you get?

But think of the effect of that combination of drama and indoctrination on impressionable (or gullible) young minds. As I said, the Pied Piper of Hamelin, all over again.

To add insult to injury, Honasan was using (or so he said, according to San Juan) his pork barrel as a senator to finance the activities of the group. "I would rather spend my pork barrel for you people na *may magandang hangarin para sa bansa*," San Juan quoted him as saying. Patriotism being the last refuge of scoundrels comes to mind again.

Gringo crops up again and again like a bad penny in the San Juan narration. His published "National Recovery Program" was used by the young officers as a recruitment "guide." He went to Oakwood (in 2003) to "dialogue" with the mutineers (giving the impression to many of us that that was the first time he would be talking to them). He attended another "ritual" in 2004 (again with Turingan, and also Jake Malajacan, all three being considered "elders"), although in these new rituals, the blood drawn was done by pinprick. There was a meeting in July 2005 and other subsequent meetings and rituals, where he presided if present, including a "Grand Meeting" where he showed a film about Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, and pointed to similarities between the Venezuelan with the Philippine situations.

Gringo's last appearance in the San Juan narrative was in the fourth week of January 2006 (again with Turingan and Malajacan), where he is quoted as saying, "*Bumibilis na ang mga pangyayari, malapit na ito.*"

What does Gringo Honasan have to say about all this? The PCIJ interviewed him last December, and reports it in its blog: "He admitted involvement in only three—1986, 1987 and 1989—of the many that he said he was being blamed for. He also talked about how government has been linking him to the Oakwood mutiny."

On the Oakwood mutiny, this is what he had to say: "Let's bring to mind, for example, recently the 2003 Oakwood incident. Just because I talked to some officers because of the National Recovery Program which they actually drafted, *ini*-implicate ako. What is worst, *nung mag*-Oakwood incident, Malacañang asked for my help. *Ako naman, si gago, punta naman ako.*" In other words, complete denial.

Who do you believe?

An even more futile demand

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL, OBVIOUSLY BElieving that a second impeachment move would be futile, has joined the call of some opposition groups for a snap election. But that is even more futile. In the first place, to do so, the Constitution has to be amended, something the opposition has consistently fought, because it considers Charter change synonymous with keeping President Macapagal-Arroyo in office. If Charter change were to be deliberated in, say, a constituent assembly, it's foolhardy for the opposition to think it could limit the deliberations only to a snap election. Open season *na 'yan.*

A futile attempt like that, however, would only succeed in creating more instability in the nation, which is deplorable in the light of huge problems at home and grave world developments that directly affect us.

* * *

For instance, there's Mayon's eruption in a region that's still trying to cope with the physical and economic dislocations due to the earlier eruption of Bulusan. There's also the gargantuan headache—and expense—of getting 33,000 Filipino overseas workers in Lebanon out of harm's way. There's the prospect of a further spiral in oil prices in case of a prolonged Middle East crisis. If the wealthier nations are very worried about its repercussions to them, how much more vulnerable is an economy like ours?

These troubled times call for sobriety and unity among our people, but sadly, all the opposition can think of is how to oust GMA. Let's hope patriotism and statesmanship will prevail among them.

* * *

Many countries, including the Philippines, have grappled with the problem of moving out their nationals from Lebanon, in what's turning out to be one of the largest evacuations in recent times. The most powerful governments have marshaled various transport modes, with the United States even chartering cruise ships to ferry an estimated 25,000 citizens out of there. British destroyers have ferried British nationals, while the French have dispatched a huge helicopter carrier able to carry over 3,000 civilian passengers. The common drop point is Cyprus, off the coast of Lebanon. The idea of using air and sea is to avoid the heavily bombarded Beirut-Damascus highway.

* * *

The Philippines has among the biggest number of nationals in Lebanon, but unfortunately, also very limited resources for evacuating them. Our workers seem to have little choice but to exit by land to Syria. Our diplomats in the Middle East, using their creativity, have moved heaven and earth to begin the evacuation and the Department of Foreign Affairs deserves kudos for undertaking what seems like mission impossible.

Several things are clear. One is that not all the Pinoy workers in Lebanon want to be evacuated—the pay is irresistible for them. Second, our government has to examine the situation in the Middle East and identify which areas ought to be stricken off the list of host countries. The way things are between Hezbollah and its sympathizers, and Israel, the crisis most likely won't blow over fast, since neither side seems willing to harken to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's call for a ceasefire.

* * *

With the third and last regular session of the 13th Congress opening on Monday, it's fitting to point out a positive development: the House had an unprecedented P190 million in savings for 2005, the second time it has successfully reduced costs. Two years ago, Speaker Jose de Venecia turned over P66 million to the national treasury as the House's contribution to the austerity and cost-cutting program of the government. Last month, JDV, during a call on GMA, said the House's bigger savings last year were made possible through a program of "austerity, cost-cutting and disciplined financial management." GMA, in turn, congratulated the House leadership for setting an example for other government agencies.

The House's hefty savings have to be appreciated in view of the fact that it has a far bigger membership than the Senate. It's more difficult to coax savings from a chamber with 236 members than from one with 23 members. The House savings should make citizens wonder, how much, if any, the Senate managed to save. For that matter, it would be a good idea for the national treasurer to disclose, as a public service, the savings made by government offices during the last fiscal year.

* * *

Interestingly, JDV told GMA the House would allocate P100 million from these savings to construct a new building in the Batasan complex, to accommodate the expanded membership of the House and their support staff. He said the rest would be used to help finance the computerization of the entire House operations, under the Speaker's program to modernize and usher it into the digital age.

In justifying the construction of a new building, JDV said the Mitra Building, conceived in 1998 during his second term as Speaker, has accommodated all public hearings conducted by the House committees since its inauguration in 2002. But he said the available space is not adequate, and the House doesn't want to go back to its old practice of holding committee hearings in expensive hotels.

* * *

Besides—and perhaps more important—said JDV, there's also the "distinct possibility" that we would have a unicameral parliament, which would require accommodations for new members. From his explanation, it's evident that he is hoping that the House's vision of a unicameral parliament with an expanded membership will still materialize. And the President's Sona is expected to stoke that hope anew as she will reportedly appeal and pledge to work for this shift. In this drive to change the Charter, she has the full support not only of the House majority but also the 1.5 million members of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines.

Tragedy in Biak na Bato

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN SEPTEMBER 2004, EIGHT PEOPLE, SEVEN of them children and teenagers, drowned in the Biak na Bato River in San Miguel, Bulacan, after flash floods swept them away while they were picnicking in the area.

The revelers had just attended a baptismal party and proceeded to Biak na Bato Park, a popular destination for local tourists because of its natural beauty and historical significance. When a sudden downpour sent water rushing down a denuded hill, onlookers said they warned the young people to get out of the river but were ignored. The swimmers were swept away by the swollen waters, with some of the children found as far as 14 km from where they were swimming.

"It took us three days to recover the bodies," recalls Bulacan Gov. Josie de la Cruz. "The tragedy really affected me because, as a mother, I deeply felt the loss of these children."

It also served as an "eye-opener" for the governor regarding the environmental crisis that had beset the national park. An Associated Press report, quoting local police, said "illegal logging" had denuded the surrounding hills, "allowing rainwater to suddenly swell the river" in the park.

"I'm a latecomer on this issue," acknowledges De la Cruz, who is on her third and last term as governor. But the issue of the environmental degradation of Biak na Bato has been a "hot-button" issue in Bulacan for about a decade, ever since environmental groups, led by the Miriam PEACE, started calling attention to the damage being done to the mountainsides and surrounding areas of Biak na Bato by firms quarrying for marble and iron ore.

And though a self-confessed "latecomer," De la Cruz now finds herself smack-dab in the center of a controversy that sees her being pit against the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Secretary Angelo Reyes and powerful mining interests.

* * *

LOCATED at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountain range, Biak na Bato is best known among Filipinos as the place where Katipunan forces, led by Emilio Aguinaldo, fled after they were routed by Spanish troops from Cavite. It was here where Aguinaldo signed the "Pact of Biak na Bato," which resulted in a temporary halt to hostilities.

In a special report for the PCIJ in 1998, Vinia Datinguinoo wrote that environmentalists were denouncing the operations of Rosemoor Mining and Development Corp., which was engaged in limestone quarrying within Biak na Bato, covered by a permit from the DENR.

"Environmentalists fear that these operations would wreak havoc on the fragile ecosystem of historic Biak na Bato, whose geological base forms part of the Angat watershed that supplies the water requirements of Metro Manila," wrote Datinguinoo. "Biak na Bato's natural springs serve the needs of local communities surrounding the park. Most of its over 100 caves remain unexplored and continue to evolve naturally."

* * *

THOUGH environmental groups, religious authorities and even socio-civic organizations had long been lobbying with her to intervene in the Biak na Bato controversy, De la Cruz says she chose to stay in the background mainly because "I knew that once I got involved, politics would enter the picture." The issue of mining in Biak na Bato, after all, involved the DENR, which was responsible for monitoring and regulating activities within the national park.

That is, until the eight picnickers drowned, when De la Cruz said she saw first-hand the tragic consequences of the denudation related to the quarrying going on.

Declared a national park by President Manuel L. Quezon in 1937, Biak na Bato remained in relatively pristine state until 1981 when Dr. Lourdes Pascual was issued a prospecting permit by the DENR inside the park. Pascual later transferred her rights to Rosemoor, which began quarrying within its approximately 330,000-hectare portion of the mineral reserve, created by a proclamation issued by the Aquino administration. Later, smaller mining firms were granted permits to also conduct operations within the mineral reserve.

Residents and environmentalists are raising alarms about the quarrying going on in Biak na Bato because of the impact of the blastings on the caves, soil layer and underground water sources in the area. Datinguinoo cites the experience of Sitio Cogonan, a small community that used to get its water directly off the north face of Mt. Mabio, where Rosemoor is quarrying. By 1998, the residents had to buy their water by the barrel because the springs had dried up, due to the blastings that caused the collapse of natural water reservoirs. De la Cruz says she fears for the fate of watershed systems in her province because once they are irreparably damaged, "Metro Manila will also lose its water and power supply."

* * *

ONE would think that the logical step to take would be for both the national and local governments to join hands and enforce the necessary laws to limit, if not totally eliminate, the sources of environmental risk in Biak na Bato. But what has happened in Bulacan since 2004 has been exactly the opposite, with the provincial government finding itself at loggerheads with the DENR.

That year, after declaring Biak na Bato a "No Mining Area," and after learning that the Supreme Court had upheld the cancellation of Rosemoor's quarry license (in 1987), the provincial government sought clarification with the DENR regarding Rosemoor's status, particularly its application for a "Mineral Production Sharing Agreement" and an "Ore Transport Permit."

What resulted was a flurry of letter-writing, paper tracking, public hearings and a media war that has since blurred the issues in Biak na Bato and has ushered in precisely what the governor feared: the entry of politics into an environmental issue.

The fallen pharaoh

WORLD VIEW

Barry Rubin

EGYPT'S KIFAYA MOVEMENT HAS RAISED THE ante in its opposition to President Hosni Mubarak's regime by issuing a massive report that dares to name names and detail corruption among the country's leaders. Nothing in Egypt's long history has ever equaled this airing of the country's dirtiest laundry.

Kifaya's action is especially bold in the midst of a government crackdown to prepare the way for the succession of Mubarak's son, Gamal. For example, a recent law mandates punishment for anyone who spreads rumors that Gamal is to be the next president.

Corruption in Egypt, as in other Arab states, is so extensive as to undermine the possibility of economic advancement, higher living standards, a free media, independent courts and democracy. Egypt's political elite, fearful of critical media coverage, defeat in fair elections and even imprisonment, prefer the existing regime and oppose any significant reform.

This is a key theme of the report, entitled "Corruption in Egypt: A Black Cloud That Never Passes." As long as the system is corrupted from above, and as long as the only way common people can deal with the government is through bribery, says the report, inefficiency will reign and people will cheat each other. The only way to break this vicious circle is to replace the regime.

At the same time, as was seen in Yasir Arafat's Palestine Authority, a corrupt regime encourages people to turn to radical Islamists, who work hard to present themselves as honest. If the Muslim Brotherhood comes to power in Egypt one day, Kifaya's report will explain a lot about how it happened.

The report begins by joking that Egypt's name should be changed to "Fasadistan," the land of corruption. It documents cases relating to housing, business, health, transportation, trade, banks, drugs, agriculture, politics, culture and the media. One chapter covers how the security forces control appointments to all key jobs, including in schools and universities.

But the most dramatic part of the book concerns Mubarak himself. An anecdote, which rings true, has Mubarak meeting with officers of the Third Army two years ago. Some of the younger officers complained about corruption. Mubarak apparently surprised them by saying that he knew that many leading people in the country were thieves, but that he believed they had stolen enough to keep them happy. He was afraid, he explained, that if he appointed new people they would start over in their depredations, putting a much heavier burden on Egypt.

According to the report, Mubarak, his wife Susan and his two sons, Gamal and Alaa, are far from being mere bystanders. When Mubarak became president in 1981, parliament granted him the right to control all military contracts without legislative oversight. In effect, the report states, he has a monopoly on military spending and imports, apparently a rich source of kickbacks.

Similarly, Susan Mubarak is the head of as many as 100 charities that often exist only on paper. The report charges that as much as $5 million might go to one of these institutions in a year but a large portion is then siphoned off to her secret foreign bank accounts. Ironically, Susan Mubarak, says the report, urged the passage of a 1992 law that permitted Egyptian non-governmental organizations to receive foreign funds—a provision used by some opposition groups—in order to provide channels for the NGOs she runs. The president's son Gamal also has his own charities that provide him with money, claims Kifaya, including the famous al-Mustaqbal organization.

Mubarak's two sons, says the report, are said to receive profit-making partnerships—without making any investment—in a large number of companies, including Phillip Morris, Skoda Auto, Movenpick, Vodafone, McDonalds, and many others. They can also, it adds, obtain unsecured bank loans for themselves and their friends.

The report maintains that these funds are often used for illegal financial transactions, arms dealing and money laundering. The sons' interests allegedly also include forays into drug smuggling and illegal exports of archaeological treasures—Egypt's cultural heritage—in partnership with Culture Minister Faruq Husni, who is supposed to safeguard them. Anyone who stands in their way can be thrown into prison on false charges of drug dealing.

Other cabinet ministers are no better, Kifaya claims. Boutros Ghali, nephew of the former UN secretary general, Interior Minister Habib Aladli and such powerful figures as Ibrahim Suleiman and Safwat Sharif are engaged in similar deals, sometimes in partnership with Mubarak's sons.

In short, the report says, officials can do what they like, unbound by law or transparency. By using the "emergency law," which has restricted freedom since 1981, together with censorship and rigged elections, Egypt's government treats its citizens like serfs.

Meanwhile, massive corruption is devastating Egypt's economy, with growth falling by half in the last two years, accompanied by rising unemployment, higher inflation and currency depreciation. Foreign investment is also declining, and local production is paralyzed, necessitating expensive imports. The discontent fueled by these failures is a major potential cause of unrest.

By issuing such a detailed report and daring to name Mubarak and his family as the prime culprits, Kifaya is challenging the regime head-on. The need for reform, it argues, is not based merely on a desire for better government or abstract rights, but is necessary to save a country that is being strangled. The regime may respond by trying to tighten the noose. ***Project Syndicate***

Barry Rubin is director of the GLORIA Center at Israel's Interdisciplinary University and editor of the Middle East Review of International Affairs.

Flight from Kuwait

YOUNG BLOOD

Katherine Gae T. Yamar

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I WAS ONLY 10 YEARS OLD WHEN IRAQ INVADED KUWAIT on Aug. 2, 1990. It was one of the last days of summer vacation in the country. I was puzzled to see my dad still in bed at a time when he should have been at work. But it was from my mom that I learned that war had broken out. She was conversing with a *kababayan*, and she mentioned the word. I thought we would never be able to go home.

Days after the war started, the Philippine government advised the Filipinos affected by the Gulf War to evacuate from Kuwait and proceed to Jordan, which would be the final exit from the Middle East to the Philippines. Together with other Filipinos, my family and I left Kuwait two weeks later. My dad drove our car to Iraq with our whole family—Mommy, my older brother, my two younger sisters and me—and a family friend. It wasn't a very comfortable trip.

When we reached Iraq, I felt unsafe. Knowing that President Saddam Hussein had ordered the invasion of Kuwait, I thought all the Iraqis would be like him—tyrannical and treacherous.

In Baghdad, we stayed in a hotel for a couple of days waiting for our names to be put on the list of persons to be evacuated that was being prepared by the Philippine Embassy. Every day, we had to wait under the scorching heat of the sun for the go signal from the embassy. My youngest sister was barely 2 months old (she was the youngest Filipino evacuee, we were to learn later) and my mom and I took turns carrying her.

One old Iraqi woman, who was watching us from her house near where we had parked our car, asked us if we were thirsty and offered us water to drink. At first, my mother declined and thanked the old woman for her kind gesture. But after waiting for hours, my mother herself asked the old woman for some water.

When the woman graciously opened the gate to her house, the first thing we noticed was a portrait of the Virgin Mary hanging on the wall. My mom asked the kind woman if she was a Christian and she said yes with a broad smile, perhaps thinking that we were Christians, too. After quenching our thirst, we thanked her and went back to wait near the embassy.

Another woman in a house across the street inquired how old my baby sister was. When she was told that the baby wasn't even 2 months old, she invited us to stay in her house while my dad and my two uncles stayed outside to wait for the signal from the embassy.

The house was elegant like any rich Arab's home. She turned on the air-conditioning in the living room where my mom, my two sisters and I waited. She said she couldn't bear to watch us enduring the heat. And she was deeply concerned about my baby sister.

The Iraqi woman spoke very good English because she and her family often visited Canada. She told my mother that she and her family didn't approve of the invasion of Kuwait. Both were obviously afraid to talk about such a sensitive matter, but they understood each other anyway.

After a while, some members of her family joined us. They were as beautiful as she. The old woman who offered us water also came with her lovely daughter. We later found out that the woman who invited us to wait inside their house was a Muslim.

My mom wondered how the two Iraqi families, who belonged to different faiths, could get along so well. They replied that belonging to different faiths should not keep people from being really good friends and neighbors.

Then my dad came and told us that it was time for us to leave. The Muslim family gave us an ice bucket filled with food for our journey to Jordan. Deeply touched by the family's kindness, my mother burst into tears. The two families were smiling, comforting her. And I myself was on the verge of tears.

We gave them our sincerest thanks as we boarded our car and began the trip to Jordan.

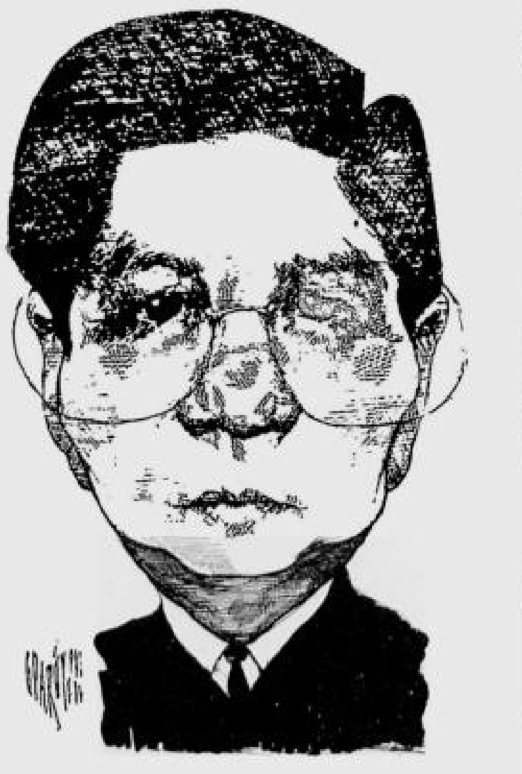
During the trip, I couldn't get over my amazement that good Samaritans could be found in the land of a leader who was terrorizing his own people. And I could not believe that the same generous folk could be labelled as fundamentalists.

Katherine Gae T. Yamar, 26, is a call center agent at PeopleSupport (Phils.) in Makati City.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

IN THE NEWS



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Role of bishops in RP politics

THE COMMENTARY OF FR. John J. Carroll, S.J. (PDI, 7/8/06) "Déjà vu all over again" did revive memories of historical events where the Church played a crucial role by intervening in political matters. These ecclesial initiatives have escaped serious and honest reflection on the part of society and of the Church in particular. Did these déjà vu events strengthen Philippine democracy? Did they reform our politics and produce a more mature citizenry? Did they offer lessons that underline values for nation-building? Did they unite our people? What effect did they have in the formation of future bishops and priests?

Father Carroll reminded us "that without the cardinal's very vocal support, the impeachment case against her predecessor would never have gotten off the ground, nor would the momentum have been sustained that led to her succession." He links this to the warning of the bishops in that famous pastoral exhortation before the 1986 snap elections, saying that those who subvert the elections by fraud or violence would sin gravely and "make themselves unworthy of the Body of the Lord"—a most serious penalty for Christians during the Middle Ages when excommunication was feared by both king and peasant—but of doubtful effect on the conscience of modern-day executives and jeepney drivers.

Another useful theological point is clarified in his commentary: "there is no 'infallible' teaching on relations between Church and State." This is a eureka statement: the key to the proper reception of all statements and actions made by bishops when they intervene in politics—that *terra incognita* in their seminary curriculum and pastoral sphere. This leads to that most helpful recommendation in Father Carroll's commentary—for the laity to evaluate the situation and to assess whether the bishops know what they are doing or exhorting in the political sphere.

Without this clear reminder, the community being served by a bishop who takes a partisan political position would be rent asunder—and the primary responsibility of the bishop to be the father of unity, the architect of a community founded on the love of Christ would be imperiled and just, perhaps, the admonition that he would make himself unworthy of the Body of the Lord might apply, too.

I noted earlier that there has been thus far no frank and comprehensive reflection and evaluation of the effects of the Philippine bishops' role in recent political events. Perhaps, we still need the distance of time before a credible history can be written. But there are indications of such reflections here and there. Astonishingly, Father Carroll renders one in his last sentence: "because at the heart of the storm is someone whom the hierarchy itself helped to put in power."

—ANTONIO L. LEDESMA,
8 Tangub St., Alabang Hills,
Muntinlupa City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Greatness in our future

CONGRATULATIONS FOR printing Basilio Valdehuesas' "Noli me tangere" in your Youngblood column last June 24.

I have said before and I will say it again, "Let us have faith that our Edsa ideals and courage are alive and well in our descendants."

If we have sons like Basilio (his parents must be very proud of him) who thinks and knows that we are a gifted and beautiful people, and I know that there are many like him (my granddaughter Ana Pascual is one), then there is greatness in our future. And "this will happen because of the efforts of our children and grandchildren who are now the young entrepreneurs."

Unfortunately because of the lure of the dollar and brighter prospects for a good life, many young ones have left for greener pastures. They cannot be faulted though. They continue to keep our peso afloat with their remittances.

Another pat in the back for you: The article on Annabelle Baclay, the Aeta teacher in the day-care center outside Clarke, last July 14 lifts sagging spirits! And there are many more like her—dedicated and sincere in their vocation—waiting to be discovered. Again, congratulations and thanks to Tonette Orejas of your Central Luzon Desk.

—CONSUELO D. SISON,
10 Alpha Rd., Alpha Village,
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

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PSALM clarifies status of Masinloc sale

I WRITE TO CLARIFY THE ISsues and questions raised by Conrado R. Banal III in his column last July 11.

YNN Pacific Consortium Inc. failed to deliver the $227.54-million upfront payment on June 30, 2006. The PSALM board of directors called on the $14.14-million performance bond, and the amount was collected and credited to the PSALM special trust account on July 4.

Consistent with the process, the PSALM board, in its meeting on July 6, voted to issue the notice of termination of the contract. The notice was issued the following day.

As stated in the contract, termination takes effect 30 days after the notice is issued (meaning on Aug. 6, 2006). This is not an extension, but a notice period, following standard practice.

Should YNN remit the $227 million before the termination takes effect, the government will not return the forfeited performance bond, a stipulation YNN is aware of and respects.

We maintain that public interest was protected throughout this transaction. Contrary to the opinion of critics, the decision to extend the original deadline of March 31 to June 30 was made because of public interest. The increase in the performance bond by $3 million as a result of the extension of the original deadline raised the collectible amount by 27 percent.

The successful sale of Masinloc would have meant the entry of a new player and a broader ownership base in the electric power industry, as well as a good revenue stream for government to be used for the payment of the debts of the National Power Corp.

Under the Epira and its implementing rules, there is no specific capitalization requirement to bid for the generation assets of Napocor. The initial bid bond of $9 million, or about P500 million, submitted by the YNN consortium when it submitted its bid for the Masinloc plant was an indicator that the investor had substantial assets. Great Pacific was a member of the consortium at the time YNN submitted and won the bid for the Masinloc plant.

While it is true that we suffered a setback in the privatization schedule, the government made sure its interests and credibility were protected by requiring a performance bond and then promptly declaring it forfeited when the deadline was not met.

We continue to follow the process stipulated in our bidding rules and our contract. This is important if we are to maintain credibility and transparency in our privatization process, which we believe are necessary to boost investor confidence in the long term.

—FROILAN A. TAMPINCO,
vice president,
Asset Management
and Electricity Trading,
Power Sector Assets & Liabilities
Management Corp. (PSALM),
6758 Ayala Ave., Makati City

'Misused' patrol vessel assigned to LGU

LET ME THANK THE INQUIRER for featuring a photo of a patrol vessel with side-markings BFAR BDP-2842 in its July 2 issue. The "misuse" of the vessel (which carried aboard people dressed in swimwear) inside the Giant Clam Protected Area of the Hundred Islands in Pangasinan just shows the concern of the public in ensuring that government property is used only for its intended purpose.

Under the law, only the local government units (LGUs) have jurisdiction over their respective municipal waters. What we in the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources do to ensure the proper management and conservation of our fisheries and aquatic resources is help strengthen their capability to enforce fishery laws. Since last year, the BFAR, through our Bantay Dagat project, has deployed a total of 92 patrol vessels for the use of different LGUs nationwide, particularly in areas where illegal fishing is found rampant.

The deployment of patrol vessels is covered by a memorandum of agreement between the recipient LGU and the BFAR. The MOA provides that the boats shall be used solely for the anti-illegal fishing drive and that the LGU shall take care of the costs of operation and maintenance of the boats. The BFAR for its part reserves the power to pull out the boats should it find that the same are being misused and/or not being properly maintained by the LGU.

The patrol boat in the photo has been assigned to Binmaley, Pangasinan. At the moment, an investigation into the incident is being conducted.

We encourage our people to be more vigilant about the programs and projects of the government. Illegal fishing has wreaked serious damage on our resources (e.g., massive destruction of coral reefs, decrease in biodiversity and in fish catch). It would take decades to rehabilitate these marine resources. Worse, some of these resources have been so destroyed that they are beyond rehabilitation.

Moreover, an estimated P2 billion is lost annually due to foreign poaching. The amount is big enough to improve the lot of many of our municipal fisher folk.

The BFAR needs the help of everybody to curb illegal fishing, and we are very happy of the support given to us by the media.

—MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO JR.,
director,
Bureau of Fisheries
and Aquatic Resources,
PCA Complex, Elliptical Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

Baseless complaint vs graft-buster

THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO THE news item "It's graft-buster vs graft-buster in the office of Ombudsman" (PDI, 7/7/06) which alluded to graft and corruption in the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military and Other Law Enforcement Offices (MOLEO).

The article is almost a word-for-word reproduction of the complaint filed on Dec. 22, 2005 by lawyer Gilbert Bueno against the deputy ombudsman and other officials, before Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez.

The allegations contained therein are misleading, malicious and devoid of truth. Bueno filed the complaint after his appeal to be promoted was denied and after he was prohibited from selling food inside office premises.

On the case of Fructuoso Villarin vs SPO4 Francisco Torres et al., as deputy ombudsman for the MOLEO, I merely acted on the request of respondent Francisco Torres (a retiree) to act on the Affidavit of Desistance executed by the complainant.

On the issue of the lifestyle check being conducted on my circumstances, let it be known that prior to entering government service, I was engaged in a fruitful private practice. My children were already in private schools when I took on my present job with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contrary to Bueno's insinuations, I was able to provide my family with the necessities of a comfortable life through 28 years of hard work and dedication in my professional life, not through any unlawful activity. The SAL I file yearly will show if I or any of my relatives have acquired any unexplained wealth and pieces of property.

On the issue of nepotism and favoritism, the matter of selection and hiring of employees is transparent and in accord with the existing rules of the Civil Service Commission. Employees and candidates are accorded access to records of proceedings. Moreover, employees are being rated by the concerned director based on individual performance, and it is the Tanodbayan who select the employees who are granted scholarships.

I rose from the ranks—starting out as graft investigation and prosecution officer to director to, acting assistant ombudsman before I was designated deputy ombudsman and concurrent OIC-overall deputy ombudsman. My management style and the intrapersonal facets of my leadership have always been transparent, balanced and lawful.

Finally, as pointed out in the 2005 Annual Report of the Office of the Ombudsman, the OMB-MOLEO under my stewardship has been cited as the highest performing office in terms of cases resolved.

—ORLANDO C. CASIMIRO,
deputy ombudsman for the
Military and Other Law
Enforcement Offices,
Office of the Ombudsman,
3/F Ombudsman Bldg.,
Agham Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

INQUIRER Visayas

E-mail: inq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Exotic 'diwal' endangered anew

By Felipe V. Celino
Roxas City

ONLY A YEAR AFTER IT WAS DEclared to have been successfully revived, the succulent bivalve "diwal" is again on a decline.

The two-day "Diwal Harvest Festival" held in Roxas City on July 14 and 15 was a big letdown, especially to people wanting to taste the native delicacy, which is also popularly considered an aphrodisiac. The *diwal* was not as abundant as last year when the festival celebrating its comeback was first staged.

The scarcity of the *diwal*, also known as "angel wings" or "chicken of the sea," is again raising concern over the state of its habitat—the seawaters of Roxas City—and the fishing practices of local fisherfolk.

The harvesting of *diwal* is a source of livelihood for many small fishers in the city's coastal barangays, particularly Punta Cogon, Libas and Barra, which are known "diwal" grounds.

The second Diwal Harvest Festival was flocked by tourists, some coming from Manila where the much sought-after bivalve (*Pholas orientalis*) is sold at skyrocketing prices in restaurants and hotels. However, many of them left Roxas City—the so-called "seafood capital of the Philippines"—frustrated. The prices in the Roxas markets were just as high; local divers sold the newly gathered *diwal* at P250 to P400 a kilo. Last year, a kilo of *diwal* only cost from P80 to P120 per kilo.

NEWLY harvested 'diwal' or 'chicken of the sea.'

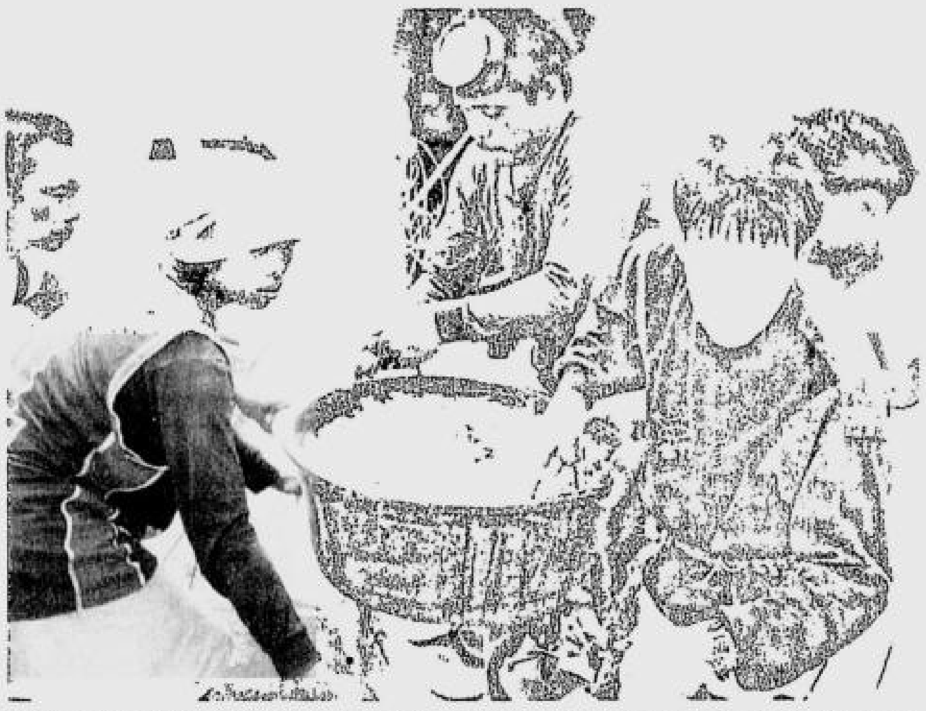
One *diwal* gourmand who expressed frustration over the bivalve's scarcity was regional director Rolando Asis of the Department of Public Works and Highways in Western Visayas (DPWH 6).

Asis said he came all the way to Roxas City from Iloilo City where he is based just so he could taste the succulent and sweet-tasting "diwal" again. But he said it took hours for his companions to find angel wings in the market of the public plaza where the food festival was held.

Where's the diwal?

Asis' experience was in contrast to the first Diwal Harvest Festival last year when the bivalve was in such abundance, people could find them anywhere in the city.

This time, some festival-goers even complained that the food outlets at the plaza ran out of "diwal" in various concoctions.



ROGER Cortez (right), president of the Roxas City Diwal Divers Association, leads members in transplanting "diwal" or "angel wings" at the seawaters of Barangay Punta Cogon during the recent Diwal Harvest Festival. PHOTOS BY FELIPE CELINO

Almost all the kiosks at the plaza served pork and chicken barbecue and peanuts as "pulutan" (bar chow) during the two-night food fest. Some of them served fish and seashells. But there were very few "diwal" dishes on the menu.

Before the festival began however, the city government, which organized the event, acknowledged that the harvest this year was bad, forcing them to cut down the festival period to two days, from last year's five.

Mayor Antonio del Rosario, who claimed that the city government spent P10 million to revive the "diwal" sanctuaries in Barangay Punta Cogon, said the bivalve's habitat came under extreme strain due to illegal fishing. This was compounded by typhoons, he added.

Punta Cogon barangay councilor Danilo Aguilos, however, has a different explanation. He said it was the reckless divers who are destroying the sanctuaries and not the fishermen using trawl (fine mesh nets).

Aguilos does not believe, too, that typhoons are wrecking the "diwal" sanctuaries. He said the bivalve lives on the seabed and thus could not easily be uprooted by strong water current.

The village official dismissed Del Rosario's claim that the city government invested P10 million in the 5-hectare sanctuaries. He placed it only at P250,000.

During last year's festival, divers were able to harvest about 10 tons of "diwal." This year, during the first day of harvest on Friday last week, divers managed to gather 680 kilos only. The city agriculturist office said the second day of harvest was worse. The divers' harvest was only 160 kilos.

Revival

Ironically, the Western Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC-6) is set to give an award to the city government of Roxas for reviving the *diwal*. It cited the city's project as the "Best Public Sector Project" this year.

Diwal made a comeback last year after almost a decade of absence, thanks to the three-year study of the Institute of Aquaculture of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas, the Department of Science and Technology and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Diwal came close to disappearing due to destructive methods used by commercial fishers.

Certain environmental factors were also blamed for the near decimation of the *diwal* population particularly in Barangays Punta Cogon, Libas and Barra.

The study brought back *diwal* to the coastal waters of Roxas after its natural habitat was rehabilitated.

Diwal also thrives in the coastal waters of the towns of Panay and Pontevedra. Its resurfacing was being viewed by Capiceños as a blessing that needed to be shared and celebrated, thus the Diwal Festival.

The resurfacing last year of the bivalve was greatly attributed to the decrease of trawling activities, limited use of chemicals in various aquaculture activities and continuing education on how to preserve *diwal*.

The UP-Visayas study was conducted from 1994 to 1997 involving the support of not only Roxas City but also of selected areas in Iloilo and Negros Occidental. The Department of Agriculture also assisted the study through its Fisheries Sector Program.

It involved mainly the transplanting of "diwal" in places where it used to be abundant in an attempt to rehabilitate them. In Roxas City, the coastal waters of Punta Cogon became the site of the study.

In the course of the study, the city government declared a moratorium on the gathering of "diwal" to allow known habitats and breeding grounds to restore themselves.

Laureta's recommendations

Despite the success of the UP study, the marine scientist who conducted the work, Dr. Liberato Laureta, recommended a number of steps to sustain *diwal*'s production.

Among these are:

* The municipal management of the resource to include deciding on when to ban and open the harvest of the bivalve.

* The strict enforcement on the ban on trawling and dredging in municipal waters.

* The establishment of fisherfolk cooperatives who would closely protect and manage the resource.

* Seed dispersal
* Refinement of hatchery techniques
* Stock enhancement; and
* Transplantation of brood stocks.

Laureta had said that *diwal*'s juicy and unique flavor and the high demand for it in the market were, sadly, the very factors that caused its rapid depletion in its traditional breeding grounds.

He pointed out that the prospect for *diwal* as an industry is bright, provided that *diwal* grounds are rehabilitated and sustained.

Leyte artist uses indigenous materials

By Vicente S. Labro
Tacloban City

INGENUITY AND TALENT SEEM TO BE WHAT keeps Leyteño visual artist Leo Villaflor ahead of his contemporaries in the province.

Already known as "Leyte's tuba artist" and for using native dyes, soot and even feathers on his canvas, Villaflor is still at it, this time also using seashells and crab shells, tree barks and roots, and coconut sheaths, among other usable things.

Villaflor said young Filipino artists could not make expensive painting materials as an excuse of not doing art works because there are many cheap or even free materials available if they just looked around.

The 64-year-old painter, who has been advocating the use of native materials in doing art works, told the INQUIRER that it is his quest for a Filipino identity that prompted him to use indigenous materials like native dyes and even "tuba," the popular coconut palm wine.

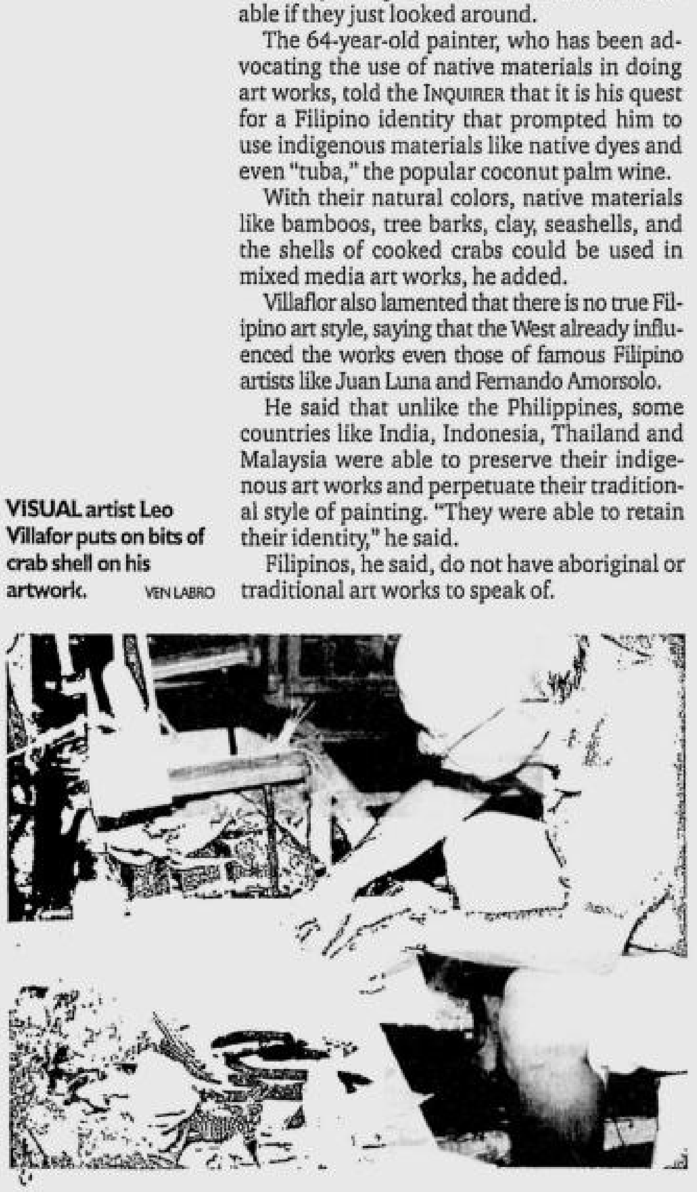
With their natural colors, native materials like bamboos, tree barks, clay, seashells, and the shells of cooked crabs could be used in mixed media art works, he added.

Villaflor also lamented that there is no true Filipino art style, saying that the West already influenced the works even those of famous Filipino artists like Juan Luna and Fernando Amorsolo.

He said that unlike the Philippines, some countries like India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia were able to preserve their indigenous art works and perpetuate their traditional style of painting. "They were able to retain their identity," he said.

Filipinos, he said, do not have aboriginal or traditional art works to speak of.

VISUAL artist Leo Villafor puts on bits of crab shell on his artwork. VEN LABRO



"One of the ways by which we can establish our own Filipino identity is through the use of indigenous materials," he said.

Villaflor also justified his use of different indigenous materials by saying that art should be progressive. "It is a continuing change in order to achieve something new, something different, something unique," he said.

A-list clients

What Villaflor has been doing did not only satisfy his quest for something new, but it also caught the attention of some of his clients, among them former Leyte Gov. Adelina "Inday" Larrazabal and one of her daughters who bought some of his mixed media art works.

According to Villaflor, Mrs. Larrazabal bought two of his mosaic works with the Virgin Mary and an ancient belfry as subjects. He said he used pinkish colored seashells for the face and white shells for the exquisite lace in the Virgin Mary art piece, while for the belfry he used bark of the acacia tree, which is white in the inside and dark in the outside.

In some of his works, Villaflor used shells of cooked crabs. "I was looking for an orange color that would complement the colors of an art work I was doing then when I thought of the shells of cooked crabs," he recalled.

At first he had a problem with the bad smell of crab shells but he soon found a way of removing it by using alcohol.

Just because he has been using indigenous materials does not, however, mean that Villaflor does not do oil painting.

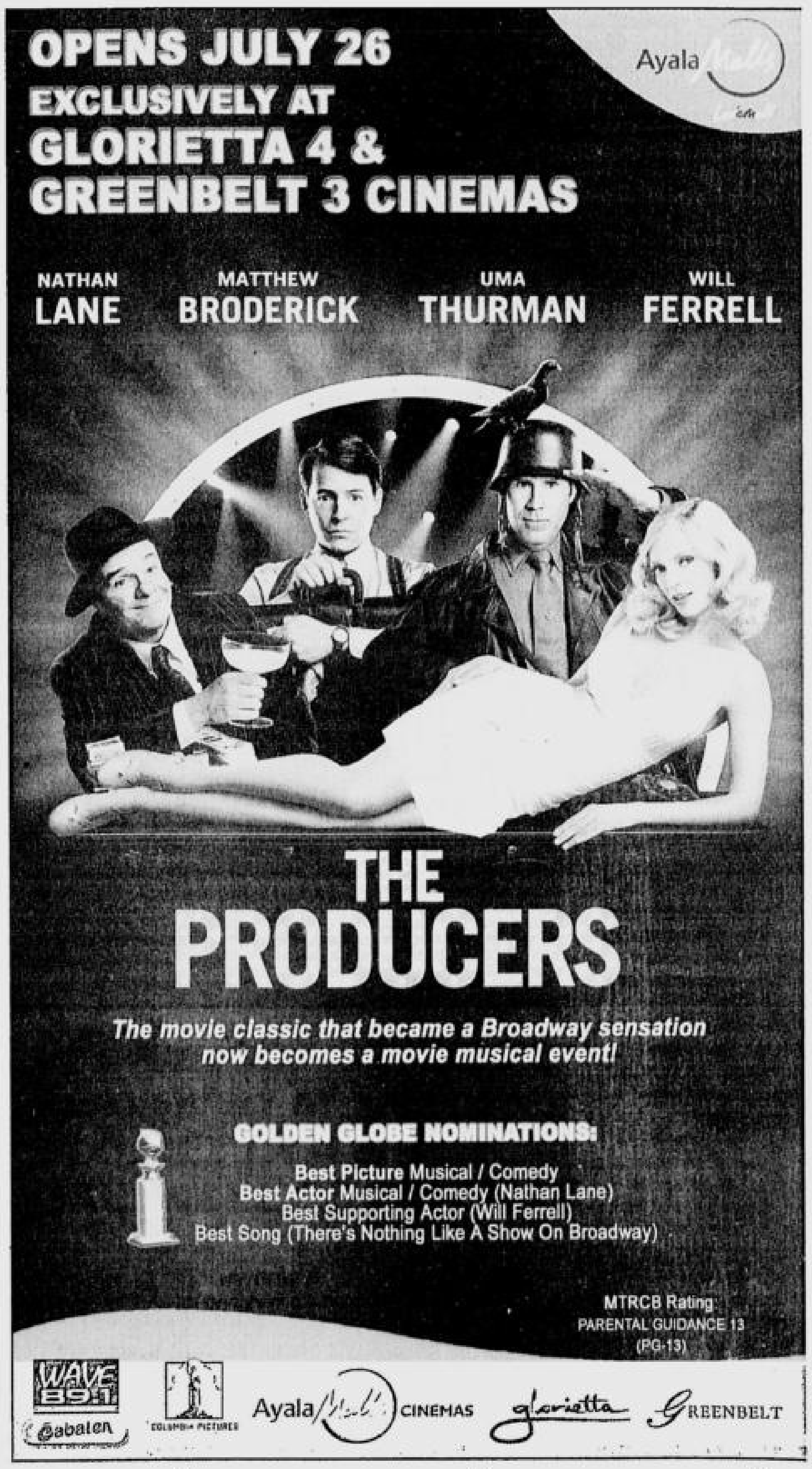
In fact, just last year he was commissioned by the city government to do 15 oil paintings, which now hang at City Hall.

These paintings, he said, include 12 paintings of the "old Tacloban" particularly in early 1900s while the remaining three were the recent accomplishments of the administration of City Mayor Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez—the new astrodome, the rehabilitated public market and the renovated Plaza Rizal.

Villaflor has no formal schooling in art and could be considered a "late bloomer" artist. He started painting when he was already in his late 30s.

In the late 1980s he experimented in using "tuba" in his paintings. Then success came in 1994 when some of his tuba paintings were displayed and bought in an art exhibit in Amsterdam.

In 1998, he was among the artists invited to the "100 Years 100 Artists: An Expression of the Filipino Soul" at the Cultural Center of the Philippines," which was one of the highlights of the Philippine Independence Centennial celebration.



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Trees to rise along 3,400 km of roads

By Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—HALF A MILLION SEEDLINGS WILL be used for a massive tree planting activity in August that will simultaneously take place along the country's three major highways, covering a total of 3,489 kilometers.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources regional office here said senior environment field officials were instructed this week by Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to assure the availability of some 500,000 tree seedlings and coordinate with provincial, city and municipal government units to take part in the massive tree planting on Aug. 25.

The massive tree planting, where both sides of the highways across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao would be planted with gmelina and mahogany seedlings at an interval of 10 meters per seedling, will launch "Green Philippine Highways."

The DENR said the project was "meant to promote the image of every Filipino as a planter of trees and make communities that link these highways become custodians of their environment."

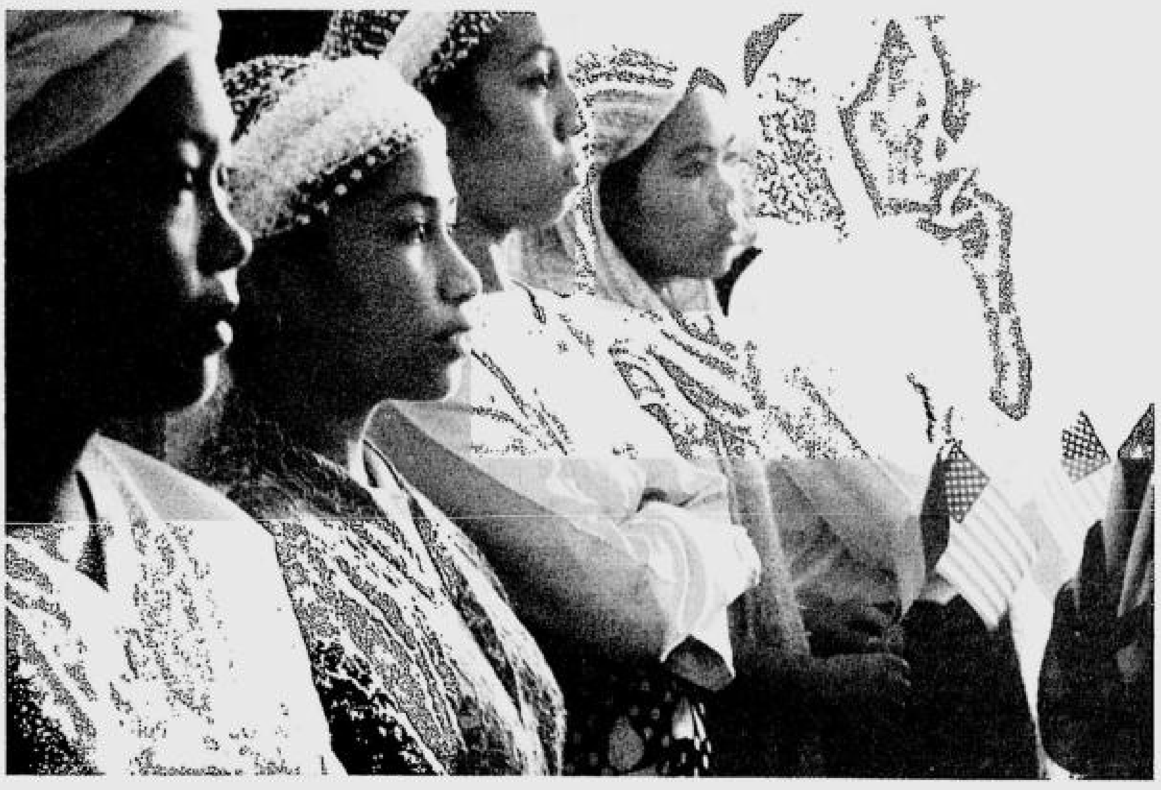
Included in the synchronized tree planting are the entire lengths of the PAN-Philippine Highways (Laoag City to Davao City at 2,176.40 km), Manila North Road (Laoag to Manila at 439.20 km), and the West Nautical Highway (Batangas City-Zamboanga-Sibugay at 823.90 km).

Julian Amador, Western Visayas DENR regional director, said this "Green Chain" of the PAN-Philippine Highway that begins at Manila North Road and West Nautical Highway would pass through the island of Panay via the Aklan towns of Caticlan, Nabas, Ibajay, Tangalan, Makato Numancia, Kalibo, Banga, Balete, Altavas; the Capiz towns of Mambusao, Sigma, Dao, Cuartero, and Dumarao; Passi City in Iloilo and its towns of Duenas, Dingle, Pototan, Zarraga and Leganes all the way to Iloilo City.

In Negros Occidental, the "Green Chain" will pass through the cities of Bacolod and Bago and the towns of Valladolid, San Enrique, Pontevedra, Hinigaran, Binalbagan, Himamaylan, and the component city of Kabankalan all the way to the Negros Oriental provincial boundary.

Rhodora Capulso, head of the DENR regional public affairs office, said Wednesday that parts of the highways that have electrical wires would be planted with hedges like yellow bells and the acacia species called *auri culiformis* while those without electrical wires will be planted with gmelina and mahogany seedlings.

Capulso said DENR employees are currently gathering "wildlings" or gmelina and mahogany seedlings growing naturally in forests and other areas.



GRATITUDE Young Muslim women students in Aleosan, North Cotabato wave small replicas of the American flag to express their gratitude for a computer literacy program started by the Growth with Equity in Mindanao, a project funded by the USAID. The US government is waging a war for the hearts and minds of the Muslim population of Mindanao as part of its antiterrorism campaign. DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Mining firm sees sabotage in creek poisoning

LEGAZPI CITY—UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS poured what appeared to be pesticide into a creek near Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu project last Wednesday then sent out text messages saying that the project had a spill that has killed marine life.

"This is sabotage to scare people and is no different from the mercury hoax antimining and leftist groups carried out early this year," Lafayette spokesperson lawyer Julito Sarmiento said yesterday.

"It is impossible for us to affect the environment at this time because we are only using water and non-mineralized ore at this stage in the test run and no chemicals whatsoever. We think the same groups who mounted the mercury hoax are behind this. Besides, we are being strictly monitored full time by DENR officials."

In the apparent pesticide hoax, residents said the creek smelled of Thiodan.

Ananias Balato, a fisherman residing in the island, said the creek smelled strongly of pesticide early Wednesday that his son even threw up. The creek is outside the project and is accessible to anybody.

Sarmiento said the company is investigating the matter and has tightened its surveillance operations with the help of the surrounding community to prevent a similar attempt by antimining groups.

He asked the media to be vigilant and not to fall for desperate and irresponsible stunts to prevent a repeat of the mercury hoax.

"Some groups desperately want Lafayette not to resume operations at all costs either because they love the environment so much they do not care if people remain poor and uneducated, or maybe because it is precisely their goal to keep the poor poor to promote whatever advocacy they are pushing," he said.

The text brigade had been traced to a priest in Rapu-Rapu, who was known to be antimining and among those who filed a civil suit against Lafayette Thursday at the Makati Regional Trial Court, said Sarmiento.

Sarmiento also pointed out that they already passed the first stage of the test-run and used only water to test the piping system.

The 30-day test-run, which is now on its second stage and on its 10th day, involves gravel and soil to test if the facilities can hold materials more than just water.

Luis Valdez, public information officer of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau, said Lafayette passed the first stage of the test-run and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes had already ordered the second stage of the test-run to start.

Fr. Felino Bugauisan, assistant parish priest of Sta. Florentino Church in Rapu-Rapu, said he had nothing to affirm or deny.

Bugauisan was among those who filed a petition signed by 800 individuals at a Makati court seeking a halt to the 30-day test-run that started July 10. *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Flag raising incentives

AKO NA NGA ANG TAGAGISING AKO PA ANG PREMYO!

BACOLOD CITY—The provincial government has come up with raffle draws to lure employees to attend the 7:45 a.m. flag ceremony every Monday. Still, many continue to miss it, including department heads, Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon said. Failure to attend the flag ceremonies should affect the rating of government employees, which entitles them to a productivity bonus of P2,000, he added. "It is important to attend the early morning ceremonies because we do so to renew our loyalty to the flag, country and God," he added. He noticed that sometimes, less than 70 percent of the Capitol employees attend the flag ceremonies on Mondays. "That is why we instituted the raffle incentive," he said. The prizes depend on the departmen sponsoring the flag ceremony. If it is the Provincial Veterinary Office, items like chickens are given out. If it is the Provincial Agriculture Office, vegetables are up for grabs. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

New Army head in Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—Former Negros Island commander Maj. Gen. Victor Ibrado is back as head of the Army forces in Western and Central Visayas. Incoming Armed Forces chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon is set to install Ibrado as th new commanding general of the 3rd Infantry Division tomorrow at Camp Macario Peralta in Jamindan, Capiz. The 3rd Infantry Division has about 5,00 soldiers stationed in Negros, Panay, Cebu and Bohol. Ibrado, a member of th Philippine Military Academy Class '76, will replace Maj. Gen. Alphonsus Crucero, who will retire on Aug. 2. Ibrado served as commander of the 11th Infantry Battalion in northern Negros from 1992-94 and later as chief of the 303rd Infantry Brigade from 2002-2003. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Marijuana uprooted in Cebu

ANG DAMI DAMI BAY!

CEBU CITY—Almost 20,000 stalks of marijuana were uprooted on Friday in a mountain village in Balamban, around 63 km west of Cebu City. Balamban police chief Insp. Anthony Bagarinao led the operation of at least 60 people composed mainly of village officials and watchmen in uprooting the marijuana plants in Sitios Ambacon, Taro, Cabatbatan, all in Barangay Bayong, which is 20 km from the town proper. From the main barangay, authorities have to walk 7 km and cross rivers and ravines to reach areas where the plantations were located, Bagarinao said. A total of 19,671 stalks of marijuana were uprooted, but Bagarinao said they burned 13,556 stalks in the area because they could no longer bring them to the police station for lack of vehicles. *Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

P128M for Negros bridges

BACOLOD CITY—Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz said the feasibility study for the proposed bridges envisioned to interconnect the Visayan island of Panay, Negros, Cebu and Bohol will cost P128 million. The governor said President Macapagal-Arroyo has "agreed in principle" to fund the feasibility study but it might not be a priority yet, given the other more pressing financia concerns of the government. Arnaiz said it was Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon who reminded the President about the need to provide a budget for a feasibility study for the Visayas bridges project because it was not listed in the medium term development plan for the Central Philippines super region, Arnaiz said. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

1 more militant leader added to Left death toll

ECHAGUE, ISABELA—THE LEADER of a farmers' group here who was shot on Thursday died in a local hospital 11 hours after she was attacked.

Madonna Castillo, 32, secretary general of the Anakpawis-Isabela and Danggayan Dagiti Mannalon iti Isabela-Echague municipal chapter, died at the Faustino Dy Sr. Memorial Hospital in Ilagan town at about 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

Senior Supt. Jude Santos, acting Isabela police director, said Castillo was appointed to take the place of slain Bayan Muna-Isabela secretary general Elena Mendiola who was gunned down on May 10.

Castillo was about to attend her classes at the Isabela State University here when two men shot her at past 7 a.m. Thursday.

She suffered three bullet wounds in the abdomen and thighs while her companion, Maricris Valdez, was unhurt, police said.

Militant groups here suspected government soldiers to be involved in the shooting as Castillo had condemned the military's alleged human rights abuses in the province.

Lt. Col. Leopoldo Galon Jr., 5th Infantry Division spokesperson, however, denied the allegations.

In Baguio City, a fact finding team said recent cases of human rights violations were documented in Kalinga, Abra and Mt. Province.

Villamor Visaya Jr. with a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI N. Luzon Bureau

MOURNERS visit the wake of slain militant leader Madonna Castillo. VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

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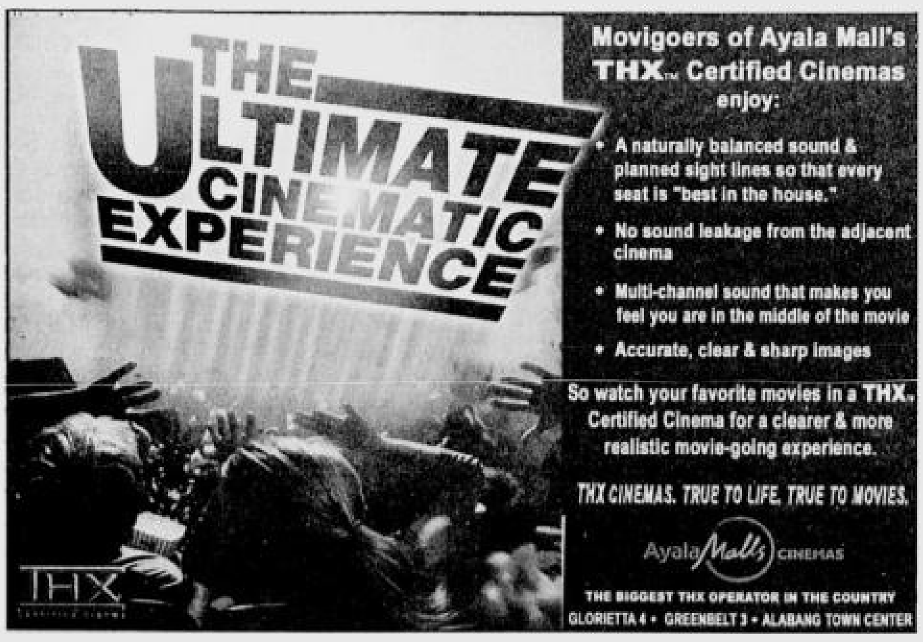

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'A work of bad fiction'

From page A1

"One can just imagine the pressure that was brought to bear not only on him but [also] on his loved ones," Gutierrez said, adding:

"Each man indeed has his own personal threshold. For this, Senator Honasan is truly sorry. The truth must, however, be borne oot.

"A reading of Senator Honasan's alleged actions and statements in the affidavit, albeit twisted to show conspiracy, do not by themselves constitute criminal acts."

'Climate of fear'

Gutierrez said the release to the public of San Juan's affidavit might be part of the administration's purported attempt to whip up "a climate of fear" before Ms Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (Sona) on Monday.

"It also comes suspiciously at a time long after the alleged events and all sorts of conflicting theories, plots and counterplots have been, in a sickening manner, foisted by the government on the public," the lawyer said.

"[It is] a government that up to now cannot get its act together, and has to attempt to crude bribery of Catholic bishops in pursuit of a continuing hold on power. Every time [Sona] time comes, it resurrects 'old ghosts' meant to create a false climate of fear. This time, however, they have been found out," he said.

Gutierrez said Honasan had never denied advocating reforms "both in the political and military structures of government."

"This, however, he seeks to attain under a rule of law and good governance, not the law of force and convenience that sadly is being practiced," Gutierrez said.

"He reiterates his commitment to democracy, morality and the ... genuine rule of law that guarantees fair process and impartial tribunals. Guarantee such, [and] he is ready to face his accusers," the lawyer said.

Congratulations

But in a document believed among the papers seized from San Juan upon his capture, Honasan was depicted as lauding the alliance of military rebels belonging to the Katipunan ng mga Anak ng Bayan and Makabayang Kawal Pilipino (MKP) and members of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army.

In a transcript of the purported meeting on Feb. 20 between the two camps, Honasan alias Bitoy sent a congratulatory statement following the forging of the alliance and the firming up of plans for Ms Arroyo's ouster after a series of discussions that allegedly spanned two years.

The statement was purportedly sent through and read during the meeting by ex-Col. Jake Malajacan alias Sisyphus.

A copy of the transcript, which was in Filipino, along with a copy of the groups' declaration of unity, was obtained by the INQUIRER from a source close to the military.

It showed that among those present at the "breakthrough" unity meeting were alleged CPP Central Committee members Leo Velasco, Prudencio Calubid and Adilberto Silva, CPP Southern Tagalog Regional Operational Command chief Tirso Alcantara, and persons known only by the aliases Jason, Cris and Mario.

On the part of the military, the others purportedly present were ex-Col. Rafael Galvez, the panel head, alias Sony; San Juan, military senior staff, alias Enteng; lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte, "military component," alias Mark; Felix Turingan, "assistant on politics," alias Karlo; and an alias Basil, "staff on politics."

Ceasefire: AFP and NPA

The document showed that among the agreements of the two camps was the formation of a transition government composed of representatives of the Left, Center and Right of the political spectrum.

It also indicated that there would be an immediate ceasefire between the Armed Forces and the NPA as soon as the new government was set up.

The purported agreement touched on the need for a government that would promote a nationalist economy, culture and foreign policy.

"In recognition of our long-lasting unity, the MKP will give its flag," Malajacan said after both camps expressed agreement with all the points in the draft statement of unity and plans of action.

"Bitoy also has something for Celo (purportedly CPP official Benito Tiamson), as well as for the comrades," Malajacan added after the signing of the agreement that was celebrated with a toast.

The CPP members said it was happy that the talks went beyond plans for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"We're happy with the unity that we've achieved. We didn't only sign a pact for the ouster moves but we've [also] moved very much forward. It is our hope that this unity rises to a higher level," said the CPP representative known only in the document as Mario.

Substantiation

Weighing in on the issue, Antique Rep. Exequiel Javier said San Juan's revelation that Honasan was behind the purported Feb. 24 ouster attempt "substantiated what the other Magdalo members said when they testified in court that Honasan was the chief and mastermind of their coup plots."

Javier also expressed alarm at San Juan's claim about the supposed connivance between Honasan and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, the sacked commander of the Scout Rangers, in working for Ms Arroyo's ouster.

"It proves that the fugitive former senator remains intent on poisoning the military even if he has been out of the service for so many years now," Javier said of the cashiered Army colonel.

"This should all the more compel the military and police to relentlessly pursue Honasan's capture so he can be made to answer for his crimes," the congressman said.

Davao del Sur Rep. Douglas Cagas said that with San Juan's claims, the military and police should make the search for Honasan and the other coup leaders more urgent. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

BELMONTE downgraded as "mere driver."

PULIDO: Rehashed propaganda

Magdalo lawyers linked to coup plot

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE LAWYERS OF THE MAGDALO mutineers were more than just their legal counsel, according to the affidavit of 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan.

The affidavit said Roel Pulido and Christopher Belmonte played crucial roles in the lives of the junior officers, lawyering for those in detention and at the same time actively supporting those in the underground.

But Pulido dismissed the affidavit as "rehashed" propaganda that was leaked so the authorities could "destroy the names of people and deny responsibility [for it]."

"We all heard San Juan," the lawyer said, referring to the officer's public remarks a few days ago. "He never said any of those things."

The timing of the leak was inauspicious, Pulido added, pointing out that it was made when reporters could not ask San Juan if he had actually executed the affidavit.

But Director Jesus Versoza, top investigator of the Philippine National Police, said the two lawyers were "directly involved in coordinating the different sectors in the conspiracy to launch rebellion."

"Investigation by the CIDG (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group) revealed the possible manipulative actions of the two lawyers," Versoza said, adding that the subjects of the supposed manipulation were the Magdalo men.

Active participants

The affidavit depicted Pulido and Belmonte as not only privy to but also active participants in the alleged plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

A copy of the document shown the INQUIRER was signed, but the signature differed from San Juan's signature on his July 14 media statement and his April 27 letter to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon, the then Army chief.

Belmonte helped hide the officers who escaped their Fort Bonifacio cell last January, the affidavit said.

It said Pulido even designed a T-shirt which was to have been widely distributed to project "a wide range of support" for the Magdalo.

The two lawyers purportedly not only attended clandestine meetings with rightists and civilians in on the alleged ouster plot, but also arranged interviews with the media, with one of them even providing San Juan "talking points."

Both Pulido and Belmonte are members of the fraternity Alpha Sigma, which has produced leaders both in and outside the government as well as in the communist movement.

Among its prominent members are ex-Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Ms Arroyo's chief of staff Michael Defensor.

Propaganda team member

San Juan's affidavit described Pulido as the "propaganda team member" of the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino, supposedly the political name of the Magdalo.

At a "grand meeting" attended by around 30 soldiers and civilians in October 2005 at Greenhills East, the lawyer supposedly "spoke for the civilian group."

"We were with you since the time of [the 2003 Oakwood mutiny]. There were many lawyers then but there are just two of us now ... We are encouraged because we know you are with us," the affidavit quoted Pulido as telling the crowd in Filipino.

While staying at Bishop Antonio Tobias' house in Quezon City, San Juan said Pulido gave him "pointers" for an interview with a TV network.

"First, I have to project that our group is still defiant. Second, [that] another group of officers and enlisted personnel [has] emerged from the Bagong Katipunan/Magdalo. Third, [that] the group will protect [the people] and stand [by their] decision," San Juan said.

Demotion

But a sarcastic Pulido observed that after being accused of serving as the Magdalo's "spokesman," he had now been "demoted" to a mere member of its supposed propaganda arm.

It was even "worse" for Belmonte, who was tagged in the affidavit as a mere "driver," Pulido said.

The lawyer also said the statements attributed to him, some of which he had been saying long before, were not illegal per se.

"What they're trying to do [now] is make it appear that behind these statements is an evil motive," he said.

Pulido denied having met with San Juan when the latter went into hiding, and said he did not even know where Bishop Tobias' house was.

He laughed at being accused of membership in a group that "does not even exist," referring to the name Magdalo, which he said was a creation of the media.

"Now, I'm even a designer of T-shirts ... All my friends (know) I have no artistic ability," he said.

Lawyers dropped

Four more Magdalo junior officers in the Army have dropped their longtime lawyers, suggesting that they may have returned to the government fold.

Theodore Te said he received word on Thursday that Capt. John Andres, 1st Lt. Audie Tocloy and 2nd Lt. Jess Tacio had dropped him as their legal counsel in their military and civilian court cases for the Oakwood mutiny.

Tocloy and Tacio are detained at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio; Andres is confined in a hospital.

Pulido said he had also been told by a relative of 1st Lt. Von Rio Tayab that he would no longer serve as the latter's lawyer in the mutiny case.

"I expect to receive a formal notice from [Tayab] this week. We all know what happens when they drop us as their lawyers," Pulido said.

Last Sept. 13, Magdalo officers in the Army led by Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo dropped Pulido and Te as their lawyers shortly before apologizing for the second time to Ms Arroyo and reaffirming allegiance to the Constitution.

Early this year, another Magdalo rebel, Army Capt. Alvin Ebreo, issued a similar statement after dropping Pulido as his lawyer.

Last week, San Juan dropped Te as his lawyer and subsequently renounced his ties with the Magdalo.

Pulido said he expected Tayab to issue a similar statement of loyalty to the military and Ms Arroyo. *With a report from Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, July 22, 2006
Mary Magdalene
1st Reading: Song 3:1-4
Gospel: John 20:1-2, 11-18

Now, on the first day after the Sabbath, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark and she saw that the stone blocking the tomb had been moved away. She ran to Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. And she said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb and we don't know where they have laid him."

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb, and as she wept she bent down to look inside; she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head, and the other at the feet. They said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She answered, "Because they have taken my Lord and I don't know where they have put him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not recognize him. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" She thought it was the gardener and answered him, "Lord, if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and remove him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to him, "Rabboni" - which means, Master. Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to me; you see I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them: I am ascending to my Father, who is your Father, to my God, who is your God."

So Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord, and this is what he said to me."

Commentary

The Song speaks of longing, of someone who is lost, wandering about, bereft of the one she loves; but she could not find him and so she cries out: "Have you seen him?"... and then she finds him. This is the core of the story of Mary of Magdala looking for the body of Jesus on Easter morning. She is intent on finding his body; she will settle only with that; she does not for a moment know who he was or that he is alive. She searches in her grief. She cannot cling to her own relationship with Jesus but can only learn that he belongs to God the Father and so does she belong to God the Father, with him. We cannot judge our relations with Jesus humanly. This is a new creation and we live no longer in old ways. We are to seek the Father with Jesus in the power of the Spirit of life.

Interfaith bishops rally behind 'rebel' bishops

From page A1

port behind the Roman Catholic prelates accused of involvement in a purported plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In a strongly worded statement of solidarity signed by its co-chair, Rev. Alberto Ramento, the Ecumenical Bishops Forum (EBF) denounced the "harassment being waged by the Arroyo [administration] against the six bishops" and described the allegations as Malacañang's "desperate attempts" to silence its critics.

"Are not the [actions] of the Arroyo [administration] designed to divert our attention from the crimes it continues to commit against the people of this republic?" said the EBF, a fellowship of bishops belonging to the Catholic Church, the Episcopal and United Methodist churches, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and the Philippine Independent Church.

'Jueteng' witnesses

The names of the prelates—Archbishops Angel Lagdameo (the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines) and Oscar Cruz, and Bishops Julio Xavier Labayen, Deogracias Iñiguez, Antonio Tobias and Teodoro Bacani—were earlier rattled off by Richard Garcia and Demosthenes Riva, two "jueteng" witnesses who later allegedly cast their lot with the administration.

Garcia and Riva had earlier approached Bishop Cruz, the outspoken leader of the Krusadang Bayan Laban sa Jueteng, and volunteered to testify regarding the operations of the illegal numbers game.

But they soon abandoned the Lingayen-Dagupan prelate, purportedly because of hefty cash offers.

"Now is a witch-hunting time for the present administration that is nervous of losing its grip on power and might, and, all of sudden, exactly the same pair went public again," Cruz said in a statement.

"Only this time their allegations are rather too convenient, and timely and preposterous as well," he said.

Valid criticisms

The EBF appeared convinced that criticisms aired against the administration were valid.

"Widespread corruption, unexplained scandals, gambling, the sell-out of our national patrimony, and above all, massive cheating on the part of President Arroyo to perpetuate herself in power—why all the attempts to cover these?" it said.

The group also said that as "teachers and defenders of the faith," Lagdameo and the five other bishops were simply teaching the people to "hold on to the truth and pursue it at all times and in all places."

"It is clear to us what dissent means—it is democratic space that says a better government is possible and that the people in this land deserve a better government," it said.

Teves father-son: Case of communication gap

From page A1

Margarito "Gary" Teves, over Customs appointments.

The senior Teves held a press conference yesterday where he criticized the repeal of Administrative Order No. 133, which strengthened the powers of the finance secretary over the Bureau of Customs, and urged his son to resign from the Cabinet.

Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said the elder Teves should have first talked to his son before reacting to what he said was an erroneous report (not in the INQUIRER) that President Macapagal-Arroyo had clipped the younger Teves' powers to reshuffle presidential appointees at the BOC.

Defensor said that he immediately urged the younger Teves to call his father and clarify that the repeal of AO 133 would not diminish the finance secretary's control over who goes or stays at the customs bureau.

He said the father and son had settled the matter between them.

Awkward situation

"I think in this case the father and son did not talk. But it's surely only about this issue and nothing about his [Gary Teves'] childhood," said Defensor.

But he said he understood why the elder Teves came out to defend his son.

"I think it was probably just a father's concern. Congressman Teves was not necessarily deciding for Secretary Gary Teves who is very able and capable as secretary of finance," Defensor said.

If anything, Defensor said it was the elder Teves who should be concerned about his own status in Congress.

He said Malacañang was not too keen about Teves taking over as head of the House ways and means committee whose chair, Tarlac Rep. Jesli Lapus, has been appointed education secretary.

Teves, who has been senior vice chair of the committee for the past few years, is in line to succeed Lapus as committee chair based on a power-sharing deal they struck in 2004.

"We will have an awkward situation where you have a chair of the ways and means committee who is the father of the finance secretary in the executive branch. As far as governance is concerned, we cannot have that situation," Defensor said.

Defensor said that House leaders, wary of a situation where father-and-son would control the key executive and congressional bodies on taxation, have already made the necessary arrangements to avoid it.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Fisher's group files P20-M libel suit vs Palparan /A20

UP studes light candles of hope for missing colleagues /A20

Artists lead cleanup of Rizal Park relief map in Luneta /A20

₱30M worth of shabu found in Caloocan house

Suspected drugs supplier eludes raiding team

By Nancy C. Carvajal

SOME 7.5 KILOS OF METHAMPHETAMINE hydrochloride or shabu, reportedly worth P30 million, were confiscated by the police during an early morning raid on a house in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Following the raid, the police launched a manhunt for a suspected big-time distributor of illegal drugs in northern Metro Manila who eluded the raiding team.

Suppliers

Supt. Jimili Macaraeg, chief of the Northern Police District Intelligence and Investigation Division, said the house on King Faizal Street, Barangay 188, Phase 12, Caloocan City, was allegedly owned by Bong Romulos Dumato, suspected of being one of the biggest suppliers of illegal drugs in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela and Bulacan province.

Dumato's house was the object of a search warrant issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Ruben Roxas dated July 20.

Macaraeg said that apart from shabu, the police also found a .22 cal. rifle in the house. Also confiscated were empty plastic sachets believed to be used for repacking illegal drugs and a weighing scale.

Operatives from the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), led by Senior Supt. Abe Lemos, and Supt. Mario Dapillosa arrested two household helpers, who were in the house during the raid.

Couriers

One of the girls, a minor, was suspected of being used as a drug courier, the police official said. The girls, who are sisters, were brought to the PDEA office at NIA Road Quezon City for further investigation. They were accompanied by SPO1 Isabel Gracilla from the Women's and Children's Desk.

Only last Thursday, policemen also raided a suspected shabu laboratory in Parañaque City.

The raiders found 50 gallons of sulfuric acid and ethanol inside a compound housing a seafoods firm which was registered as a tuna fish exporter.

The owner, however, failed to produce a clearance from the PDEA for the chemicals found in the warehouse where equipment for a suspected mini shabu laboratory was also found.

Parañaque blaze kills 2 children

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TWO CHILDREN WERE KILLED AFTER A fire ate up their home in a crowded neighborhood in Parañaque City before dawn yesterday.

Arson investigator SFO4 Arturo Castro identified the fatalities as Bernadette Bautista, 2 and her brother, Kurt, 1.

Castro told the INQUIRER that the two children could have been unintentionally left behind inside their house in Rodriguez Compound, Ninoy Aquino Avenue in Barangay Sto. Nino.

Their mother, who had fainted upon learning a fire hit their home, was rushed to the hospital, neighbors said.

The Bautista siblings were burned beyond recognition, said Castro.

He added that the fire, which started at around 12:30 a.m., could have been triggered by an unattended candle.

"The compound did not have any electrical connections," Castro told the INQUIRER over the phone.

At least 30 shanties were destroyed in the blaze which had reached the third alarm.

Fire officials pegged the damage at P1.5 million when it was put out shortly after 2 a.m.

Meanwhile, a man identified as Andy Ortiz was arrested after he allegedly hit fire volunteer Carlos delos Santos in the face.

Ortiz, however, told the police that he accidentally hit the fireman because he was agitated about the fire.

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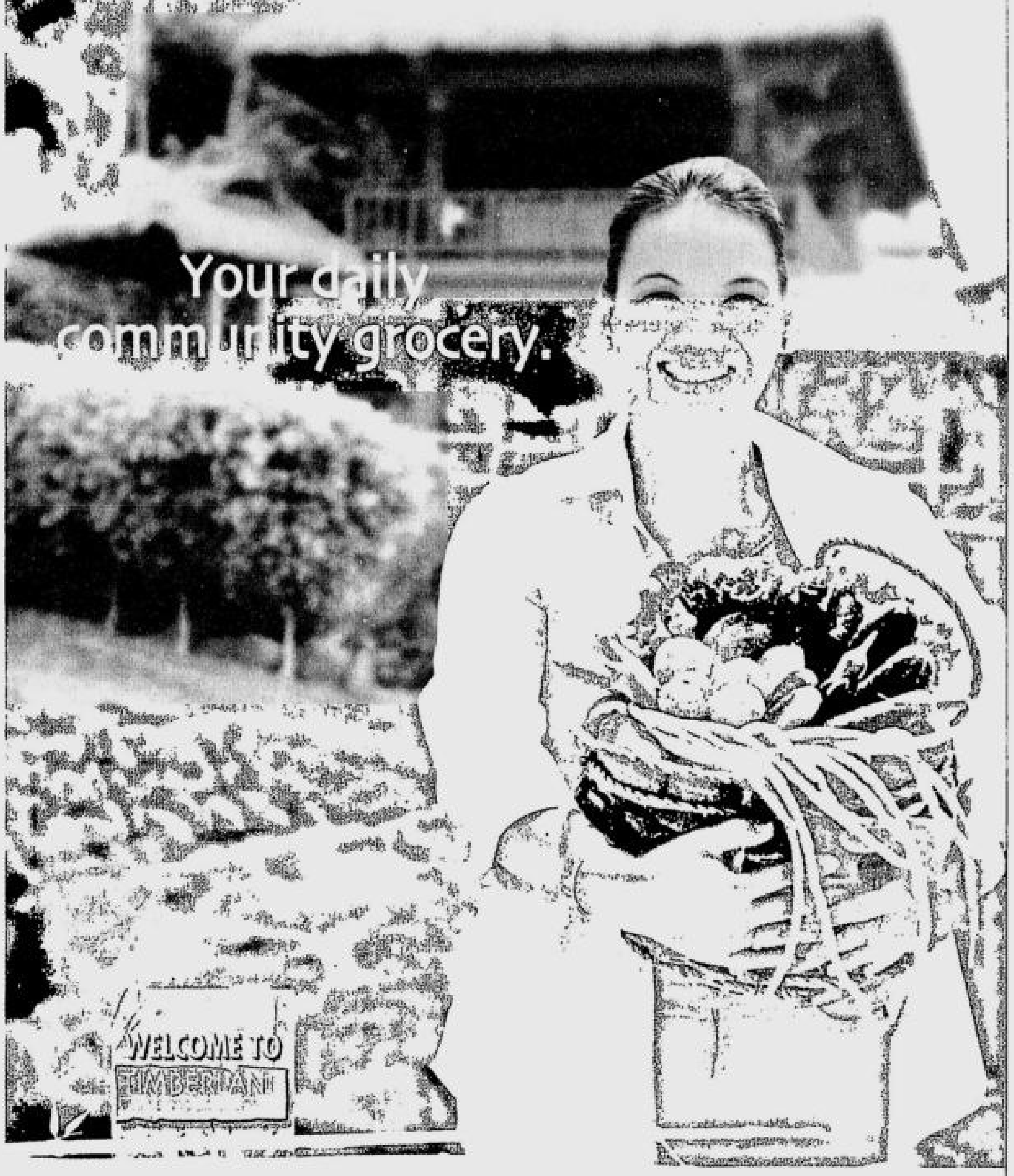
Discover the freedom of going on an adventure any time you feel like it with **Timberland Sports and Nature Club**, an exclusive membership club where your whole family can enjoy various indoor, outdoor and "nature-based" amenities, as well as facilities for sports, recreation and relaxation. For inquiries on club membership, please call 927-9995.

Exquisite living choices
Discover a new way of life. More than just a home, Timberland Heights boasts of themed communities with a Tropical Asian flavor to suit different lifestyles. There's **Mandala Residential Farm Estates** for hobby farmers who enjoy cultivating their very own farm lots. Then, there's the exclusive dream hideaways of **Banyan Ridge** for those who appreciate luxury and freedom. Or if you'd prefer a complete mountain residence, you can choose from the three country homes offered by **The Ranch**.

Everything you need in one place
Discover a lifestyle where everything is within your reach. Timberland Heights makes it possible through the concept of a master-planned township. Anticipating your needs, schools, churches, commercial and socio-civic centers have been mapped out in the township, allowing you to attend to your daily needs all within Timberland Heights.



Bite into the freshest organic vegetables, straight from your backyard everyday. At Mandala Residential Farm Estates in Timberland Heights, you can cultivate your own farm lots and vegetable gardens, giving you ready access to the freshest produce.

Designed for everyday living, Timberland Heights is the perfect nature retreat. Bask in the cool climate and unpolluted environment while enjoying the breathtaking mountainscape and the picturesque views of the city. Master-planned to answer your needs, the 677-hectare Timberland Heights offers the relaxation of resort living while providing the complete amenities of a township.

725-7866
www.timberlandheights.com

Join us this weekend from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and experience nature first-hand.

The Ranch HLURB LTS # 14578
Banyan Ridge HLURB LTS # 11957
Mandala Residential Farm Estates HLURB LTS # 10476

FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Fishers' group files ₱20-M libel suit vs Palparan

By DJ Yap and Tonette Orejas,
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CONTROVERSIAL ARMY MAJ. Gen. Jovito Palparan is facing a P20-million libel suit for linking some fisherfolk to communist insurgents and accusing them of extorting money from fishpond owners.

In the complaint filed yesterday at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas (Pamalakaya) alleged Palparan defamed them through statements published in the INQUIRER on July 1.

The INQUIRER story, written by Tonette Orejas, quoted Palparan as saying that Pamalakaya and the party-list group Anakpawis were being "singled out" by the military for creating trouble in Bulacan.

Singled out

Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division in Central Luzon, was quoted as saying members of the two groups were "intimidating civilians, recruiting for the [New People's Army], seizing fishponds or extorting P50,000 monthly from fishponds owners [in Bulacan]."

Palparan made the statement to explain why leaders and members of Pamalakaya and Anakpawis were being singled out by the military for questioning.

Justification

"As a result of (Palparan's) statements, people began to get scared of Pamalakaya, thinking we can call the NPA when we want to," said Pamalakaya national chair Fernado Hicap.

Pamalakaya said Palparan's campaign to "demonize" legitimate organizations could serve as justification for the military to include civilian groups in their "all-out war" against communist rebels.

Sentra Foundation Inc. lawyer Jobert Pahilga, who assisted Pamalakaya in filing the complaint, said Palparan, who is retiring Sept. 11, could not hide behind the "mantle of privilege" as a military officer, since his statements were malicious and defamatory.

Legal association

Gerry Albert Corpuz, Pamalakaya information officer, said the complaint was filed to "assert our legitimate and moral standing in Philippine society as a legal association of marginal fisherfolk across the country."

Palparan declined to comment, saying he had not received a copy of the complaint.

But he said he should be the one filing a libel case against those who had called him a "butcher" of political activists, and attributing to him direct involvement in some 500 cases of human rights violations.

Grave danger

The complaint said Palparan's statements exposed Pamalakaya officials, organizers and members to "grave danger" like extrajudicial killing, abduction, threat and harassment.

Formed in 1987, Pamalakaya has 36 provincial chapters and claims a membership of 80,000.

The Congress for People's Agrarian Reform cited the group in 1993 for its contributions in defense of people's rights and welfare.

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City

is now accepting application for
Academic Year 2007

FELLOWSHIPS:

I. Pediatric Cardiovascular Medicine Department
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics

II. CV Anesthesiology Division
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

III. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division
- 3 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

RESIDENCES: (For Medical Board Passers)

I. CV Radiological Sciences Division
II. Biological and Clinical Laboratory Division
III. Nuclear Medicine Division
- 1 year Fellowship Program is available for the above Residencies

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation
(with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2"x2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency

- Deadline for submission of application is on August 31, 2006
- Academic Year 2006 starts on January 1, 2007

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager
Department of Education, Training and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236, 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to oer@phc.gov.ph

(PDI - July 16 22 23 29 30 Aug 6 7 13 14 20 21 27 & 28 2006)

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna, Philippines 4024
TransCo

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF VARIOUS OBSOLETE AND UNSERVICEABLE MATERIALS ON "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

1. DATE AND TIME OF BIDDING — AUGUST 03, 2006 AT 1:30 P.M.
2. PLACE OF BIDDING — SL O&M Whse OFFICE, BINAN, LAGUNA AND D3 ADMIN OFFICE, DARAGA, ALBAY.

The National Transmission Corporation, South Luzon Operations and Maintenance, will conduct a simultaneous bidding at SLOM Warehouse Office, Admin Div., Biñan, Laguna & District-3 Admin Office, Daraga, Albay for the sale of the following

LOT #	PARTICULAR	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1	One (1) Lot of: Obsolete line hardware. S/S equipment & assorted power Switchboard parts composed of 330 line items. Cross arm Brace, step bolts, guard guy wire, rod inter phase, opera-rod, hydraulic hose, insulator-CAO515MC, handle manual With screw, clamp parallel groove, plate chamber, anchor bolt, CT Bushings, ABS rod, wire connector, shackle, Walkie-talkie, telephone filed, swivel, compass pocket, meter field, long rod insulators, moister eater, cleaner solvent, gloss restorer, patching kit bond, condenser bushing, power transistors, resistors, module IC, bushing, etc., for details please refer to IIR dated 3/29/05	BINAN SUBSTATION WAREHOUSES, BINAN, LAGUNA	P2,459,000.00 /Lot
8	One (1) Lot of: Assorted Obsolete and Scrap/returned/retired materials and equipment. Transformers, current and potential, LA, bus supports, cutter, jack, blower, rachet, skull guard, screwdriver, rain boots, safety shoes, pruner, battery charger, UPS, clock, auto parts, aircon units, dynamo, motor, C.T bushing, lighting fixtures, V-blind, mother board, hard disk, tables & chairs, CPU, radio, polisher, projector, sterilizers, typewriter, tires and flaps, etc.	ALSOR SUBSTATION DARAGA, ALBAY	P 180,676.00 /Lot
11	One (1) Lot of: Assorted Obsolete/Scrap/Retired/Returned materials and equipment. Wires shield for 3/8" dia., internal injection pump nozzle, overhead ground wire, wire rope, bended tower parts with line hardware, capacitor voltage potential device, power circuit breaker, insulator porcelain, aircon units package type, assorted line materials	LABO SUBSTATION LABO, CAM. NORTE	P 794,100.00 /Lot

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BID DOCUMENTS:

The Bid Documents shall be issued to bidders upon application and payment of a non-refundable fee of P250.00 per set.

Sealed Bids in the prescribed form shall be received until 1:30 P.M. of August 3, 2006 at the National Transmission Corporation, SL O&M, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna and District III Admin Office, Daraga, Albay and shall there be opened and publicly read

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
1. Proposal Bond Deposit in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check equivalent to Ten Percent (10%) of the Total Bid Price.
2. A – For Individual Bidder — Latest Income Tax Return or COC-PITW – Yr. 2005 of the Bidder, BIR stamped received
   B – For Company – Latest Income Tax Return – Yr.-2005 BIR stamped received and Audited Financial Statement of the Company.

Additional information and/or request for inspection may be secured from Transco-SL O&M Warehouse Office, Admin Div., Binan, Laguna with Telephone No. (02) 5206776 and 9814539 local 4008 and District III Admin Office, Daraga, Albay, Telephone No. 9814539 local 4210.

Issuance of Bid Documents will start on July 17, 2006 until August 2, 2006.

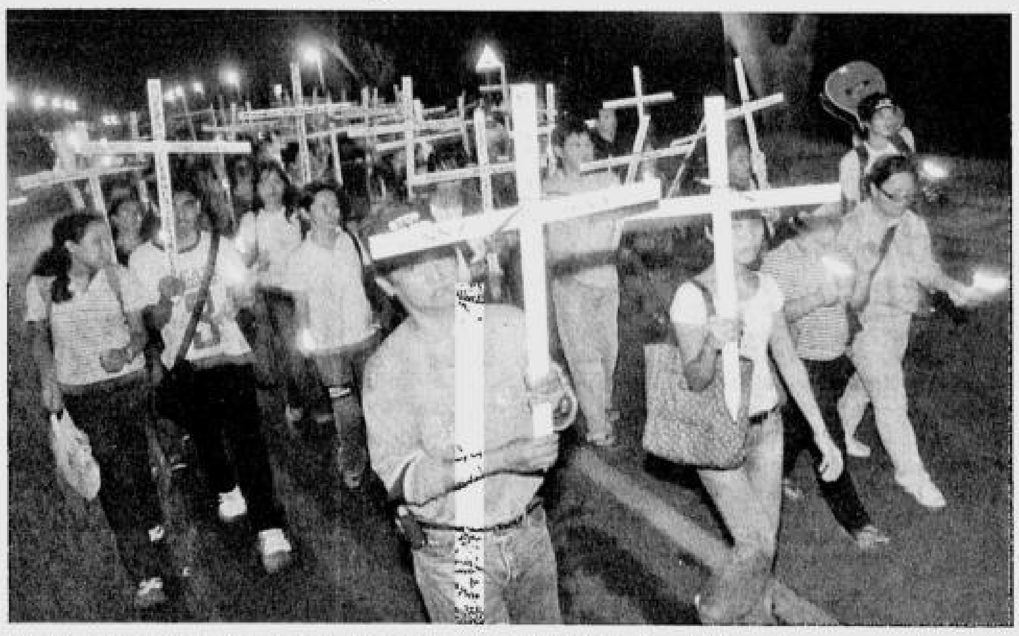
The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality found therein and to accept such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

R.D. RAMAS
Chairman
Regional Asset Management Sub-Committee

(PDI–July 22, 2006)

UP demands release of abducted students

By DJ Yap



STUDENTS and faculty members of the University of the Philippines hold wooden crosses as they march inside the school campus to demand the release of two missing students and in protest against the growing number of political killings in the country. RAFFY LERMA

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Diliman community in Quezon City held an indignation rally Thursday evening as they demanded the release of students Karen Empeno and Sherlyn Cadapan.

The two students were allegedly abducted while on an exposure trip to Bulacan on June 26.

"We cannot lose hope. We cannot just cry in a corner, otherwise, we would be filled with despair," said professor Joi Barrios. She added that the students were not just statistics. "We know them."

Erlinda Cadapan, Sherlyn's mother, said she drew strength from the hope that her daughter was still alive.

"What happened to Sherlyn made me stronger. I cannot be meek. I have to be strong for my daughter," she said.

The 100 or so students and teachers held a brief program at the Quezon Hall steps in front of the Oblation statue, lighting candles and singing "Ang Awit ng Pag-asa."

Messages of solidarity came from student leaders and faculty members, including National Artist Bienvenido Lumbera, a convenor of Tigil Paslang UP.

Lumbera said the students' abduction could push more students and teachers to oppose the Arroyo administration.

University Student Council chair Juan Paolo Alfonso said the students' disappearance highlighted the threat posed by the government's crackdown on political activism.

"What happened to them could also happen to us," he said.

Cadapan's mother later thanked the university for supporting her fight for her daughter's release.

MMDA ignoring Supreme Court order

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT IS IN A NO-win situation in dealing with Novaliches Bishop Antonio Tobias who allegedly harbored mutinous soldiers who escaped from detention in January.

If Tobias is prosecuted, he will be hailed as a martyr. If he is left alone, the government will be perceived as weak and obsequious to the Catholic Church.

The diminutive bishop is even challenging the government to charge him, saying, "I will not put up my defense—let the country be my judge."

How should the government deal with Bishop Antonio Tobias? Do nothing.

Ignoring the bishop and being perceived as weak is the lesser evil than suffering a backlash as a result of putting him in jail.

Anyway, the majority of the citizens perceive their government to be weak. So, the government might as well play the part to the hilt.

* * *

It seems the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) is ignoring a court injunction preventing it from destroying advertising billboards and signs on structures belonging to the government-run Metro Rail Transit Corp. The MRT structures include the big posts on Edsa.

The injunction came from no less than the Supreme Court. The ad agency under contract with MRT, Trackworks, sued the MMDA to prevent it from tearing down its advertising billboards.

But the MMDA continues to tear down the ad billboards even after the high court has come out with the injunction.

Either MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando is courting the ire of the Supreme Court or he is completely ignorant of the injunction.

* * *

The new Armed Forces chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon told by reporters that his name means "battering ram" in Spanish, Esperon quipped that he would batter the military rebels.

* * *

The Pinoy crab mentality is again at work in the private modern grains terminal in Sariaya, Quezon, reputed to be the biggest in Southeast Asia.

The terminal is equipped with the latest top-of-the-line cargo handling and unloading facilities brought in from Europe and the United States. It also has the only natural 18-meter deep water port in Southeast Asia. The terminal was built by a completely Filipino-owned firm at a cost of P3.2 billion.

Yet even before it is formally inaugurated, certain parties are already subjecting the facility to incessant attacks. First was the accusation that the port was being used for smuggling. This was proven false by an on-the-spot inspection by customs authorities.

Now, some people are trying to discourage grains producers and traders from using the terminal, alleging that the facility lacks infrastructure support and is located far from Manila.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph
Web site: http://www.sss.gov.ph

INVITATION TO LEASE OFFICE SPACE

The Social Security System is inviting building owners to submit proposals offering office space for lease as future site of SSS Makati 3 Receiving Center.

Proposed office site to be considered should meet the following minimum criteria:

1. Location
   a) Located at the ground floor having a minimum floor area of 300 sq.m. and building frontage of 7 meters.
   b) It should be easily accessible to Barangays Bangkal and Pio del Pilar; San Lorenzo and Legaspi Villages: Ayala Center and Pasong Tamo (Buendia to Mantrade).
   c) Ideally along the main thoroughfare for the convenience of the members.
   d) Fronting road must be concrete paved with drainage system.
   e) It must not be prone to flooding.
2. Basic Utilities – availability of power, water, communication lines, fire escape, and minimum of three parking slots.
3. SSS Signage – amenability of building owner to allow the installation of SSS exterior signage
4. Renovation Cost – very minimal and limited to voice and data cabling.
5. Monthly Rental - maximum of P90-T a month, inclusive of all applicable taxes.
6. Certificate of Occupancy – building's compliance with the National Building Code.

Interested building owners may submit their proposals to MAC Program Management, 7th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Proposals should include the office area; offered price; complete as-built plans; copy of TCT; comprehensive vicinity map with major landmarks, pictures of the offered space; and Board Resolution on the authorized signatory if the building is owned by a corporation. Incomplete proposals shall not be considered.

Deadline of submission of proposals shall be on 01 August 2006.

Further information or inquiries may be made to Mr. Rogelio Funtelar of MAC Program Management in the above address with telephone number 920-64-01 local 5240.

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all proposals without assuming any obligation whatsoever for any expenses or losses that may be incurred by the proponents in the preparation of their offers.

(Sgd.) Mario R. Sibucao
Chairperson, RC Task Force

(PDI - July 22, 2006)

ONE OF Rizal Park's famous attractions, the giant relief map, is the object of a cleanup campaign initiated by artists. ERIK ARAZAS

Manila artists lead cleanup of park relief map in Luneta

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A GROUP OF ARTISTS HAS launched a clean-up campaign for the Philippines, in miniature.

Members of Dakila (Philippine Collective for Modern Heroism) brought brooms, brushes and paint to the Rizal Park in Manila yesterday to clean up the relief map near Taft Avenue.

"The map is a fitting symbol of the Philippines. Cleaning it would (call) attention to the country's present lamentable condition," Leni Velasco of Dakila said in an interview.

Velasco said they started cleaning the map in January and had removed silt and mud.

They are now repainting the entire map. A free concert was also held yesterday featuring alternative and rock groups Parokya ni Edgar, Typecast, Cherry Cornflakes and Radioactive Sago Project.

Velasco said Dakila was advocating social awareness among other artists and audiences.

"We also hope to educate, instill awareness and inspire involvement among the youth, creating venues for them to express their patriotism, utilizing art as a means of expression," she added.

In September, the organization will clean up Manila Bay as part of the Clean Up the World Campaign.

Army won't stage coup –Thai top commander

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S TOP MILITARY commander Friday insisted that the armed forces would not stage a coup, rejecting rumors that have swirled around Bangkok amid deepening political uncertainty.

Supreme military commander Gen. Ruengroj Mahasaranond has repeatedly denied coup rumors that have floated around the Thai capital since the political crisis broke out in January.

But the rumors have reignited in the last two weeks, with Thai media speculating on a possible rift in the ranks between those aligned with Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and those against him.

"Since early this year, I have reassured all of you many times that there's no coup. All the press have written about this for groundless reasons," he told reporters.

"The military will stay clear of politics and will not bring more harm to the country by staging a coup," he said.

"Our military is disciplined and will not do anything outside our authority," he added. "The politicians and all the parties must find their own way to solve the problem."

Fears of a coup gained momentum Wednesday, after the routine annual reshuffle of mid-level army personnel that saw the army chief, Gen. Sonthi Boonyarataglin, send 129 mid-level commanders to posts out of Bangkok.

Many of them are believed to be classmates of Thaksin when he was in training to become a police officer before he started the business career that made him a billionaire.

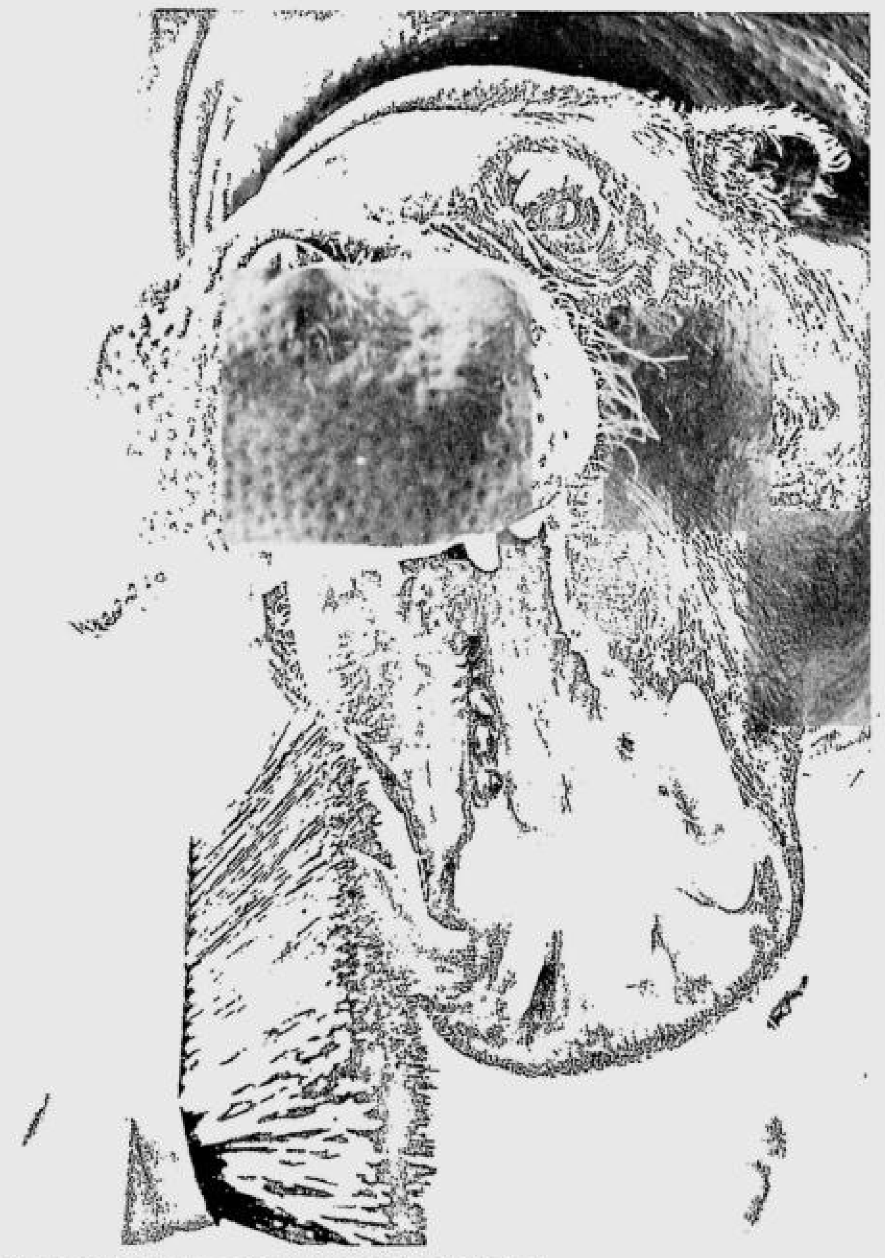
Thaksin has insisted that the reshuffle was "an internal army affair."

Thailand, which has a long history of military governments, has been rattled by coup fears since protesters took to the streets in February to demand Thaksin's resignation over alleged corruption.

Top military brass, including Ruengroj and Sonthi, have repeatedly denied the rumors and insisted that the days of military intervention in politics are over.

Thaksin called snap elections on April 2 to end the protests. His party won, but the victory was undermined by an opposition boycott, leading the Constitutional Court to invalidate the results.

New elections tentatively set for Oct. 15 were cast into doubt earlier this month when the court agreed to consider vote fraud charges against Thaksin's ruling Thai Rak Thai and the main opposition Democrat Party. *AFP*



THIS IS THE WAY MY TEETH ARE BRUSHED

"Thug," one of London zoos' two pygmy hippo, opens wide to have his teeth brushed and checked by a keeper July 20. The hippos' teeth are regularly cleaned using a broom but now they each have their own brush. Pygmy hippos originate from west Africa, but the ones in London have the advantage of a daily clean and check and if required a visit from a dentist. AFP

Toyota rebuked over slow recalls

TOKYO—JAPAN'S TRANSPORT MINISTRY on Friday ordered Toyota Motor Corp. to improve its system for responding to faulty vehicles following police allegations of a defect cover-up.

Toyota's management accepted the government's instructions for the world's second-largest automaker to share and monitor information related to recalls more effectively among different sections of the company.

The rebuke came a day after Toyota president Katsuaki Watanabe apologized in connection with a probe by Japanese police over a series of defects.

Local police allege that Toyota failed for about eight years to respond to a defect in a sports utility vehicle although the company maintains that it acted appropriately.

"But we recognize that things could have been different if there was a system to share information among the different sections of the company," Toyota vice president Masatami Takimoto said following the government order.

Toyota in October 2004 recalled about 330,000 Hilux Surf vehicles.

Three Toyota officials face allegations of professional negligence for failing for eight years before that to issue a recall after learning the vehicle had a defective relay rod linking the steering wheel to the front wheels.

"The recall could have been done earlier," Land, Infrastructure and Transport Minister Kazuo Kitagawa told a news conference, Kyodo News reported.

"Toyota had some problems including the absence of records on consideration of past information and the lack of close in-house communications," he added.

Police in southern Kumamoto Prefecture who conducted the probe referred the case to prosecutors last week, saying the defect had resulted in at least one accident in August 2004 that left five people injured.

Toyota's internal investigation revealed that it had received reports of 82 defect cases by the time of the 2004 recall but the company had only reported 11 of those cases because it lacked the full details of the others. *AFP*

Hopes for justice dim with Khmer Rouge chief's death

KHMER Rouge Army Chief Ta Mok at his headquarters in Anlong Veng, Cambodia, on April 20, 1998. AP

PHNOM PENH—THE DEATH OF Khmer Rouge commander Ta Mok has dimmed hopes that a tribunal established to try former regime leaders will find justice for the victims of Cambodia's genocide, analysts said.

Ta Mok, one of only two top Khmer Rouge cadre in custody, died aged 80 early Friday after being admitted to hospital late last month with respiratory problems.

He was likely to have been the first person indicted in the tribunal, which got under way this month after nine years of sometimes hostile negotiations between the United Nations and Cambodia over the joint proceedings.

But even with prosecutors having started their investigations, Ta Mok's death underscored the need for swift justice, analysts said, warning that the aging former regime leaders could all go to their graves without standing before the court.

"We lost a key witness," Kek Galabru of the Cambodian human rights group Licadho, said of Ta Mok's death.

"If this tribunal takes too long, one-by-one they (Khmer Rouge cadre) will die and the dead cannot talk. ... We appeal for the trial to be sped up—just do it quickly," she told AFP.

Ta Mok's death leaves only Duch, the director of the Khmer Rouge's Tuol Sleng torture center, in custody on genocide charges, and it is unclear who else might be summoned to the tribunal.

Up to two million people were executed or died of starvation and overwork between 1975 and 1979 when the Khmer Rouge, led by Pol Pot, forced millions into the countryside in their attempt to create an agrarian utopia.

Pol Pot died in 1998 and surviving members of the regime, including top deputy Nuon Chea, former head of state Khieu Samphan and ex-Foreign Minister Ieng Sary, are in their 70s and 80s, prompting fears that they too could die before facing justice.

Preliminary investigations in the $56-million tribunal are expected to wrap up later this year, with trials to start in mid-2007.

Tribunal officials acknowledge that they lost key evidence with the death of Ta Mok, who was likely to have testified against other regime members, but maintain the credibility of the tribunal will not be hurt.

But genocide researcher Youk Chhang, whose Documentation Center of Cambodia has worked for years compiling evidence of Khmer Rouge atrocities, said Ta Mok's passing will cause Cambodians to call the process into question.

"Imagine what is going to happen to all the victims who have waited for so long—Ta Mok died in hospital without a clear explanation about (what happened during the regime)," he said.

"It impacts the victims' perception of how much hope there is (for justice) ... it's not a good beginning at all." *AFP*

Republic of the Philippines
Municipality of General MacArthur
Province of Eastern Samar
Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: July 20, 2006
Loan No. 4299-PH
IFB No. SFF-GMA-GOODS-01-2006

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Finance (DOF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for **Supply and Delivery of 4 Units Brand New 6-Wheeler Cargo Truck with Drop Side Body and 3 Units Brand New 4-Wheeler Cargo Truck with Drop Side Body**.
2. The Municipality of General MacArthur, Eastern Samar, now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply and delivery of the following

LOT	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
1	4 WHEELER BRAND NEW CARGO TRUCK WITH DROP SIDE BODY	3
2	6 WHEELER BRAND NEW CARGO TRUCK WITH DROP SIDE BODY	4

3. Interested eligible bidders may purchase or inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the **Office of BAC Chairman, Municipal Hall, Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar, Tel. (055) 575-2035 / (055) 575-2040**.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting **July 31, 2006 - September 12, 2006** upon submission of a **Letter of Intent** to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00)**.
5. Interested eligible bidders may submit bid for one (1) or two (2) lots
6. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank *Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods*.
7. Bids must be delivered to the **BAC Chairman, Municipality of Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar**, on or before 2:00 p.m. on **September 13, 2006** and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of **One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 100,000.00)** for **Lot 1** only or **One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 150,000.00)** for **Lot 2** only or **Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00)** for both **Lot 1 & 2** in the form of Cash, Manager's Check or Bank Guarantee.
8. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on **September 13, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the **Municipal Conference Hall, Municipality of Gen. MacArthur, Eastern Samar.**
9. Prior to bid opening, a **pre-bid conference** will be held on **August 30, 2006, 2:00 p.m.**, at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. PONCIANO L. THONG, JR.**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - July 22 & 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Office of the Secretary
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
2/F Building 1, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, 1001 Manila
Trunk Line 743 83 01 local 1625; 1626 Telefax 741 97 75
URL: http://www.doh.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

PROCUREMENT OF TB SUPPLIES AND TB DRUGS FOR CHILDREN

1. The Department of Health (DOH), through the General Appropriations Act of CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of Eight Million Seven Hundred Forty Three Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Philippine Pesos (PhP 8,743,530.00) for the Procurement of TB Supplies for Children and Six Million One Hundred Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Seven & 50/100 Philippine Pesos (PhP6,100,777.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the aforesaid Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for Procurement of TB Supplies and TB Drugs for Children under IAEB No. 2006-8-29 (16) and IAEB No. 2006-8-29 (17) respectively. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Thousand Philippine Pesos (PhP 2,000.00) each for the above-mentioned procurement. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *DOH* will hold the following activities open to all interested parties at the address below

Goods	Activities	Date and Time
Procurement of TB Supplies (IAEB No. 2006-8-29 [16])	Pre-bid Conference	August 15, 2006 10:00 a.m.
	Opening of Bids	August 29, 2006 10:00 a.m.
Procurement of TB Drugs for Children (IAEB No. 2006-8-29 [17])	Pre-bid Conference	August 15, 2006 1:30 p.m.
	Opening of Bids	August 29, 2006 1:30 p.m.

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount in Pesos. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the *lot/item* for which Bid is Submitted
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

8. Bid opening shall be held at the address below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.
9. The *DOH* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee
Ground Floor, Building 6
Department of Health
San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz
Manila
Telephone No.: 743-83-01 local 1625 and 1626
Telefax No.: 741-97-75

ALEXANDER A. PADILLA
Undersecretary of Health and
COBAC Chairperson

(PDI--July 22 & 29, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective consultants to apply for eligibility and shortlisting and if found eligible and short-listed, to bid for the Conduct of Consumer Expectations Survey (CES) for one (1) Quarter, per BSP Terms of Reference.

The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for this consultancy services is P3 Million

The scope of the work includes, among others, the conduct of 4th quarter survey which would cover all 17 regions in the country including ARMM, if possible. Each major area shall have a sample size of about 2,500 households or a total of 5,000 samples nationwide. The Consultant's responsibilities shall include: a) survey design; b) conduct of survey (e.g., survey enumeration/data collection, field supervision, field editing, and all backs), and c) data encoding and processing as specified in the Terms of Reference.

The list of minimum eligibility requirements is indicated in the Eligibility Form. Eligibility of prospective consultants shall be checked using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Interested consultants must meet the following criteria:

1.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of two (2) years experience in the conduct of nationwide surveys.
2.0 The prospective consultants must have a minimum of five (5) computers that can be used for date encoding purposes.
3.0 The prospective consultants must have at least five (5) technical staff each with at least two (2) years experience in the conduct of surveys. The Permanent Survey Director/Manager to be assigned to this project must be at least a degree holder.
4.0 The prospective consultants must have a bank deposit of at least one million pesos.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas shall evaluate bids using the Quality-Cost Based Approach procedure through a weighted scoring system that simultaneously considers both the overall technical quality of the proposal and the financial bid (60-40). The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.

The list of eligibility requirements may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat on July 14-28, 2006 upon submission of a *letter of intent* and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

Interested suppliers must submit the eligibility requirements to the BAC, Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, Five-Storey Building, corner A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila, not later than 1 August 2006, 2:00 p.m.

Bid documents will be available only to short-listed bidders (top 5 shall be considered) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The provisions of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations relative to the bidding and award of contract shall apply.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation. Furthermore, BSP is not obliged to compensate/indemnify the consultant for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bid nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - July 22, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Israel eyes ground attack on Lebanon

BEIRUT—ISRAEL POUNDED LEBANON FROM THE AIR ON Friday and one general said it might soon expand ground operations in its bloody assault on Hezbollah guerrillas.

After 10 days of relentless bombardment which has destroyed much of Lebanon's infrastructure, Israel has been unable to stop Hezbollah firing rockets into the Jewish state, raising the possibility that it may have to push across the border in strength.

"It's possible that in the coming days our ground operations will increase," Brig. Gen. Alon Friedman told Maariv newspaper. "We have many forces, we will carry out a massive recruitment of reserves and it's possible that many more forces ... will reach the border in the next few days."

As thousands more foreigners were evacuated from Beirut, four Israeli troops were killed in fierce battles with Hezbollah guerrillas just inside Lebanon on Thursday, the Israeli army said. Hezbollah said it lost two fighters in the clashes.

Israel said two of its helicopters collided near the Lebanese border, killing a pilot and injuring three crewmen.

Elite Israeli troops have been launching small-scale raids in Lebanon to try to stop Hezbollah, a Shiite Islamist group backed by Syria and Iran, from firing rockets into Israel.

Israel began its assault after Hezbollah captured two soldiers and killed eight in a cross-border raid on July 12. It has also waged a military campaign in Gaza since June 28 to recover another soldier, seized by Palestinian militants.

Its campaign has killed at least 312 people in Lebanon, the vast majority civilians, and displaced half a million.

Thirty-four Israeli troops and civilians have been killed.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said the war against Hezbollah would continue "until we reach a point where the marginal usefulness that is building to continue the military operation will not be worth the price."

Israelis still overwhelmingly back the war, with 90 percent wanting it to go on until Hezbollah is driven from southern Lebanon and 95 percent saying the army's response was justified, a poll in Maariv newspaper showed on Friday.

Despite the assault, Hezbollah is still firing rockets at Israeli towns and combating Israeli troop incursions.

Israel has been wary of launching a full-scale invasion in south Lebanon, only six years after it ended a 22-year occupation that was resisted by relentless Hezbollah attacks.

Israeli jets bombed Shiite districts in Beirut, the eastern Bekaa Valley and southern Lebanon around sunrise on Friday and struck a bridge on the main Beirut-Damascus highway four times.

The Mdeirej bridge has already been bombed twice.

In other raids, Israeli aircraft hit parked goods vans in the Bekaa, and a private power generator and garbage trucks in Beirut's Christian suburb of Baabda, near the presidential palace. There were no reports of casualties in the strikes. *Reuters*

A TERRIFIED British national carrying a child runs toward a RAF Chinook helicopter during a massive evacuation operation in Beirut port July 20. "It was pure chaos," an evacuee described Beirut. REUTERS

As bombs rain, dead must wait

TYRE, LEBANON—CARPENTERS ARE running out of wood for coffins. Bodies are stacked three or four high in a truck at the local hospital morgue. The stench is spreading in the rubble.

The morbid reality of Israel's bombing campaign of the south is reaching almost every corner of this city. Just a few miles from the Rest House hotel, where the United Nations was evacuating civilians on Thursday, wild dogs gnawed at the charred remains of a family bombed as they were trying to escape the village of Hosh, officials said.

Officials at the Tyre Government Hospital inside a local Palestinian refugee camp said they counted the bodies of 50 children among the 115 in the refrigerated truck in the morgue, though their count could not be independently confirmed.

Abdelmuhsin al-Husseini, Tyre's mayor, announced on Thursday that any bodies not claimed within the next two days by next of kin would be buried temporarily in a mass grave near the morgue until they could receive a proper burial once the fighting ends.

"I am asking the families, if they can come here, to claim the bodies," said Husseini, whose bloodshot eyes hinted at his mad scramble to secure food rations and bring some order to the city. "Otherwise, we have no choice but to bury them in mass graves."

With the roads and bridges to many surrounding villages bombed out, few families have been able to come to the hospital to claim their dead.

For those relatives who reach the morgue, conducting a proper burial is impossible while the bombing continues. Many have opted to leave the bodies at the morgue until the conflict ends.

The morgue has had to order more than 100 coffins.

"What? He wants a hundred?" a local carpenter said, half shocked, half perplexed. "Where the hell am I going to get enough wood to build that many coffins?" *NYT*

Thousands of evacuees flood into packed Cyprus

LIMASSOL, CYPRUS—THOUSANDS of tired, frightened evacuees fleeing Israel's bombardment of Lebanon flooded into Cyprus on Friday, sparking warnings by officials that the small island may not be able to cope with the influx.

Around 1,000 Americans, visibly relieved to have escaped the relentless aerial bombing, disembarked overnight in the port of Larnaca from USS Nashville after being rescued by US Marines.

About the same number arrived at the port of Limassol on a cruise liner chartered by the US government.

"They (the Israelis) are targeting civilians. They call themselves civilized, but they are barbaric. I don't want my kid to grow up like that," said Habib Kheil, a professor of mathematics from Michigan.

"We arrived two days before (the bombardment) started. The children were so scared, they huddled all together and stayed in the lowest part of the house," he said, breaking into sobs and hugging his 8-year-old son Abdul.

Dutchwoman Amna Choucair, a 30-year-old mother of two who has lived in Lebanon for 10 years, said she still hoped to return to her adopted home.

"We left everything behind ... It is such a waste. Hopefully we will be back soon. The kids have a life there."

US officials said they had arranged six charter flights to carry Americans from Cyprus to Baltimore free of charge. They expect to have evacuated 6,000 Americans from Lebanon by Friday.

Cypriot Foreign Minister Georgios Lillikas said his country, with a population of just under a million, was struggling to deal with the crisis and he repeated his call to Nicosia's European Union partners to help share the burden.

"Cyprus is the only country in the EU which is offering its facilities to this extent. Because of our size we don't have the ability to respond to the numbers of citizens of third countries," he told state radio.

"We are in a dilemma as a government either to continue our humanitarian efforts with the means we have or do what others do and not allow non-Europeans to use Cyprus and not offer services to leave," he said.

"We would rather that never happened," Lillikas said.

He said Cyprus was bracing for 20,000 Canadians and 1,000 Indians shortly among many other evacuees. Officials say they expect an average of 4,000 people arriving each day, putting great strain on resources at the peak summer tourist season.

Ships from Italy, Britain, Greece and India also docked in Cyprus overnight, carrying people of diverse nationalities.

A Cypriot vessel chartered by the United Nations brought 1,000 passengers at Larnaca. Many seemed shaken by their ordeal.

"There was shelling throughout Beirut during the time we were moored there. It was obviously distressing to those coming out," said UN security officer Simon Butt.

Some passengers described scenes of chaos in Beirut as they tried to board the waiting boats.

"It was pure chaos. They should have let women with children first, or some sort of arrangement, but there was a stampede," said Rolla Weed, 31, from Orange County, California.

Washington says nine military ships are involved in its massive evacuation operation, which brought the Marines back in Lebanon nearly 23 years after a Shiite Muslim suicide bomber blew up their barracks in Beirut, killing more than 200.

Many tearful evacuees were concerned about families they left behind. "I know I am safe now," said Australian student Sherean Irani, 19, who had been visiting relatives in Lebanon and had hoped to study there. "But my heart is with Lebanon." *Reuters*

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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SPORTS

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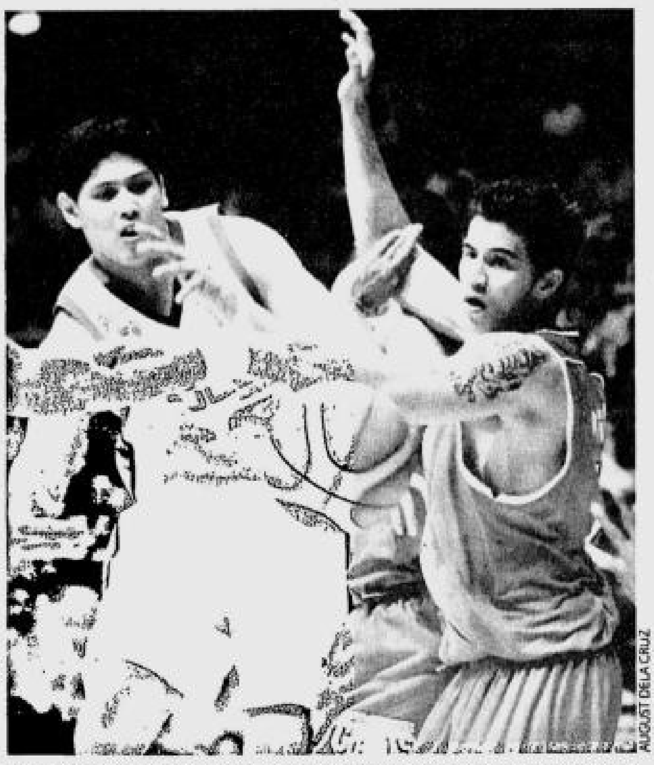
Woods back; Jimenez surges to early lead/A26

PSC firm on ₱30-M Asian Games budget



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RED Bull's Enrico Villanueva slips a pass off Purefoods' Marc Pingris in their PBA Finals game last night. The teams were still playing at presstime.

OFFICIALS SWEAR IT WOULD not be enough, but the Philippine delegation to the Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, in December will have to make do with a P30-million budget.

The Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) yesterday stood firm on the figure regardless of how many will eventually comprise Team Philippines in the Dec. 1-15 quadrennial meet.

"Even before the start, I felt that P30 million is not enough," said sports commissioner Ritchie Garcia during the weekly SCOOP sa Kamayan session on Padre Faura, Manila.

"But that has been our stand. No matter the size of the delegation, we just have to work on that budget."

Two days ago, the executive board of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) approved slots for 187 athletes and 107 officials for the RP contingent to this year's Asiad.

It said the figures would go higher with the inclusion of athletes in team events like softball, water polo, baseball and basketball.

"Right now, they are hitting at about 290," said Garcia in the session sponsored by Accel. "But based on the budget available, the delegation should only be about 250-260."

Armed with a a P70 million budget, the Philippines sent a 359-strong delegation to the Busan Asiad four years ago. The contingent brought home three gold medals, one each in bowling, billiards and equestrian.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez, also a guest in yesterday's session, said the government sports agency might seek cash from other sources to fund contingencies during the Asiad.

"Historically, there had been unforeseen expenses while we were competing in international competitions," said Ramirez, who is also Chef de Mission of the RP contingent in the Asiad.

"We have to be prepared for that. We have to be flexible [in using funds]."

Garcia said that for Team Philippines to achieve the ideal contingent size, the selection of athletes should strictly adhere to the criteria laid down by the Asian Games Task Force and that the number of officials should be minimized.

Ramirez said that to save on funds, the PSC would send only 10 men, to be headed by commissioner Joey Mundo, to Doha.

Commissioner Leon Montemayor will be left behind as officer-in-charge while commissioner Ambrosio de Luna will go to Qatar as guest of its ambassador to the Philippines.

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RP-Air21 suffers 1st loss, seeks final berth vs HK

Games Saturday *(Hong Kong Coliseum)*
7 p.m.—US vs China
8:30 p.m.—Hong Kong vs RP-Air21

HONG KONG—RP-AIR21 PUT UP a brave stand but got cramped by manpower shortage in the closing minutes to bow to the Asian-American Sports Club, 79-97, at the close of the elimination round in the 15th Eastcolight-Super Kung Cheung Cup international invitational basketball tournament at the Hong Kong Coliseum.

Orphaned by the absence of brothers Yancy and Ranidel de Ocampo, who had to rush back to Manila following the untimely death of their father early Thursday morning, the Filipinos held their ground and battled their Southern California-based rivals on even terms until the final five minutes of the tightly-fought contest.

The Filipinos and the Americans, already assured of semifinal berths after winning their first two matches, treated the game like a championship match.

The game was tied for the last time at 71-all with 5:13 remaining before a closing 26-8 run by the Americans, highlighted by five three-point shots, completely turned the game around.

The disqualification of PBA slam dunk champion K.G. Canaleta and team captain Wynne Arboleda on successive technical fouls also took its toll on the Filipinos.

RP-Air21 will now meet defending champion and Group A topnotcher Hong Kong (3-0) in the crossover semifinal at 8:30 p.m. today. The Americans, who topped Group B with three straight wins, will take on China Basketball Association (CBA) champion Winnerway Tigers of China (2-1) in the other semifinal match.

"The boys did their best, but the breaks did not go our way in the closing minutes," said RP-Air21 coaches Bo Perasol and Johny Tam.

Pinoy Cuppers move closer to Group II berth

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIL-AMERICANS ERIK TAINO AND CECIL Mamiit and homegrown stars JP Tierro and Johnny Arcilla played just hard enough to whitewash the Vietnamese yesterday as the Philippines stook another step closer to regaining its old berth in the tougher Davis Cup Group II yesterday.

Taino started off the 3-0 RP victory with a 6-0, 6-1 thrashing of Tranh Huang Tran before Mamiit fended off Minh Quang Do, 7-5, 5-7, 6-1, in the second singles.

Arcilla then paired with Tierro in a 6-3, 7-5 defeat of Quang Tri Lam and Tran that capped yet another dominating performance by the Filipinos in the on-going Group III zonals at the Manila Polo Club.

The third straight victory, all scored via 3-0 routs, moved the Philippines into the round-robin phase of the tournament from which the best two teams will advance to Davis Cup Group II play next year. The Filipinos will carry its 3-0 record into the round.

"I'm beginning to smell Davis Cup Group II again," said Arcilla, who has played for the RP Davis Cup team since 1999.

The Philippines will no longer take on the other qualifier from Group A, Sri Lanka, which it blanked in last Tuesday's tournament opener.

Iran swept Group B as well and advanced to the next round with Saudi Arabia.

The Filipinos clash with the Saudis (2-1) starting at 10:30 a.m. today.

Arcilla and Tierro appeared bent on finishing off the Vietnamese early, whipping up winners from all corners of the court to fluster the visitors.

But the locals let their guard down in the second set, allowing Lam and Tran, working behind forehand winners and service aces, to move within 4-5.

Games went according to serve after that as the Filipino duo sewed up the match in one hour and 15 minutes.

"They just wouldn't fade away," said Arcilla.

"The team is playing very well, I think we can compete decently in Group II, even in Group I," said the United States-based Taino who took the doubles gold medal with Mamiit and the mixed doubles title with Riza Zalameda in the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The Philippines vied in the elite Group I in 1990 with current non-playing skipper Roland So one of its mainstays. But poor form soon after relegated the country to Group II the following year and to Group III in 2000.

From 2000 to 2005, the Philippines regained Group II status but got demoted again to Group III after a miserable showing in successive Asia-Oceania ties.

THE PHILIPPINES' Frederick Taino has his eyes on the ball against Vietnam's Thanh Hoang Tranball during Davis Cup competitions at the Manila Polo Club yesterday. Taino won, 6-0, 6-1. ERIK ARAZAS

Ozamiz five forces NBC title decider

OZAMIZ CITY—REIGNING TITLIST OZAMIZ Cotta led all the way and bested expansion team Pagadian, 74-66, Thursday night to level their best-of-three series for the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball crown at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym here.

Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Cotta Shrine cagers led by seven points at the end of the first quarter and never looked back as they limited the Explorers' top two gunners—ex-pros Peter Naron and Bong Marata—to 11 points each, only half of their combined output when Pagadian took Game 1, 97-80.

"We were embarrassed with the way we played in Pagadian in Game 1," said Ozamiz coach Albert Calvo. "I just told the boys that, as defending champions, we should be more aggressive. They responded pretty well."

Ozamiz Cotta and Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers were disputing the title at presstime yesterday.

Marlon Basco flashed his old form to pace Ozamiz with 19 points and spoil Pagadian's title bid in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Ozamiz was outrebounded 43-49, but showed better teamwork, finishing with 19 assists against Pagadian's seven. The Ozamiz cagers also forced the Explorers to commit 17 turnovers.

Pagadian's Michael Orquillas and Lou Gatumbato tried to rally their team, but their combined 33-point performance fell short.

The scores:

OZAMIZ 74—Basco 19, Cavan 10, Bansil 9, Sampilo 9, Alberto 8, Liangco 8, Guerrero 5, Ilanga 4, Echavez 2, Yabut 1, Alvarado 0, Delina 0

PAGADIAN 66—Orquillas 18, Gatumbato 15, Naron 11, Marata 11, Daja 6, Salud 3, Singco 2, Cortez 0, Dayota 0, Ayuk 0, Omandam 0, Pamaran 0

Quarters: 21-14, 38-32, 59-55, 74-66

LA SALLE goalkeeper Louie Navarro parries a shot by Irok FC's Rea Villa (7) in a women's match in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship.

Air Force, Army part ways

POWERHOUSE CO-LEADERS AIR FORCE and Army part ways today when they clash in the 2006 Adidas Futsal Championship at the Blue Eagles Gym in Katipunan, Quezon City.

Expect fireworks when Emelio Caligdong, Air Force's prolific scorer, matches skills with the high-scoring pair of Army's Luis Brillantes and Wilson dela Cruz in the featured match set at 5 p.m. in the tournament sponsored by Adidas, with the National Capital Region Football Association.

Both Air Force and Army tote 5-0-0 win-draw-loss records going into the match. Marines-B (1-0-4) and El Magistrado of the men's Second Division-B open hostilities (4-0-1) at 2 p.m.

Miriam, which only has a draw to show after six games, and Vintage Football Club (3-1-1) collide in the lone women's match at 3 p.m.

In other men's matches, Marine A takes on Pagcor at 4 p.m., Superfriends tests the mettle of Navy (0-1-4) at 6 p.m., while Veterans FC (2-0-4) takes on Kaya FC in the last match at 7 p.m.

Tomorrow, Union FC (5-0-0) stakes its spotless record in men's Second Division-B against Lions FC (3-0-1) at 4 p.m., while University of Asia and the Pacific (4-0-0) tries to stay unscathed against Ateneo (2-0-3) in men's Second Division-A at 1 p.m. Other men's matches pit AFP Selection (4-0-1) against Los Merrengues (0-0-4) at 2 p.m. and Los Borrachos (2-0-2) against Archers Luce (2-0-3) at 3 p.m.

Jota, Tiu brace for showdown

INTENSE COMPETITION IS EXPECTED WHEN the 2006 Red Horse National Drag Racing Championship stages its fourth leg today at the drag strip of the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Dave Jota of Blanche Racing and Jonathan Tiu of Team Ere will break their tie for the lead in the premier Quick 8 division. Jota, with two wins since the series kicked off last April, and Tiu, who holds the track record of 11.092 seconds, have 15 points each in the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

In the Pro class division, Marvin Suzara also of Team Ere, Conrado Estrada of Team Ready-Ado Motors and Jose Uy of Blanche Racing share top spot with 15 points each.

Contact BRC operations manager Rodini Rivera or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241 for details.

Streetball tilt begins today; HAU favorite

HOLY ANGEL UNIVERSITY IN PAMPANGA will be back to defend both its boys' and girls' regional crowns in the Luzon-Adidas Streetball Challenge which fires off today at the University of the Cordilleras, formerly Baguio Colleges Foundation.

The two defending champions are among 48 teams, 36 of them in the boys' section, competing in the regional tournament, according to local organizer Leo Arnaiz.

Expected to crowd Holy Angel University for the crown in the one-day tournament are University of Baguio, St. Louis University, University of the Cordilleras and Assumption College from Pampanga.

The champion teams in the two divisions will earn a trip to the national finals of the 2006 Adidas Streetball Challenge set Aug. 12-13 at the Mall of Asia in Manila where they will clash with the other regional champions from Mindanao, Visayas and Metro Manila.

"Despite the storms that hit Baguio recently, we are prepared to hold the tournament which has drawn teams from as far as Pampanga, La Union and Pangasinan," said Arnaiz, brother of former PBA superstar Francis Arnaiz who also conducts regular basketball clinics in Baguio City.

Adidas Sports marketing manager Goody Custodio said the boys' national champion will be sent to Guangzhou, China, to vie in the Asian Streetball Challenge set Aug. 25 to 27. He said this will be the last year for the 3-on-3 Streetball tournament as Adidas will be shifting to a 5-on-5 format next year.

Expected to grace the opening ceremonies in Baguio are newly appointed Adidas Phils. managing director Joey Singian, PR manager Odette Velarde, and Custodio, together with this year's tournament organizers, Futures Sports and Events Management Corp., headed by Dondell Pasion, tournament director Jay Salvador and Nino Sinco.

Asuncions stay alive

THE PHILIPPINES SUFFERED heavy casualties Thursday night, including Kennie Asuncion in the women's singles, and was left with the RP mixed doubles bets of Kennie and Kennevic to continue the fight in the Macau Open badminton championships.

Three men's doubles team fell one after another, even as first-round winners in the men's singles Christopher Flores and Wally Fernandez hit the dead-end after a day of cutthroat competitions in the five-star tournament.

Flores yielded to Eric Pang of the Netherlands, 10-21, 13-21, while Fernandez bowed to Bao Chun Lai of China, 11-21, 17-21.

Asuncion managed to come up with a decent game against Chinese-Taipei's Lin Chuan, hacking out a 21-19 first-set triumph before giving in (21-18, 15-21, 21-23).

The 28-year-old Kennie will pair with her brother in the mixed doubles where they are pitted against lower-ranked tandems.

The Asuncions are No. 21 in the world. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

SPORTSWATCH

Makati Coliseum 5-cocker finals

TODAY IS THE GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP OF SALPUKAN SA TAGLUGON 5-COCK derby at the Makati Coliseum, with more than 100 fights. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace. After five days of elimination rounds, 57 participants with two wins each advanced to the 3-cock finals which will start at 2 p.m. Gunning for the top prize of P2 million plus a brand new Ford Escape are Roger Segismundo, Nonoy Gonzales, Wilmer Ting, William Co, C. Malapitan, Rey Briones, Honey Yu, Eddie Araneta, Efren Canlas, Nick Asuncion, Butchoy Olano, Lito Cay, Manny Pacquiao, Pol Estrellado, Raymond Velayo, Emil Chua, Ching Morales, Louie Cua, Osang dela Cruz and Boy Marso. Call 895-6475 and 896-3545.

Super Fastest Win stakes P.5M today

WITH MORE THAN 120 MATCHES ON TAP, SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S SUPER fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan takes the spotlight at 7 a.m. today. The guaranteed prize is P500,000 for an entry fee of P1,100. Each winner will get P1,000 as bonus. The fastest win champion will get the top prize of P75,000; second, P30,000; third, P15,000; fourth, P10,000; 5th to 10th place, P5,000; 11th to 20th, P3,000; 21st to 30th, P2,000 and 31st to 50th, P1,000. Likewise, the first 10 winners will receive a mountain bike. The SJC management also announced the staging of Bobbit Ples' Rabatitat 4-cock derby Aug. 2.

Gaffers derby at Las Piñas tonight

REGULAR GAFFERS BASED AT LAS PIÑAS COLISEUM WILL HOLD THE EXPRESS 2-cock derby beginning at 7 tonight with 45 fights lined up. The derby, with an entry fee of P3,300, will be supported by former Mayor Nene Aguilar and coliseum manager Alex Tobias. Set July 27 is the Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan with Alex Tobias and Yoyoy Dahonog as hosts. The guaranteed prize is P230,000 for an entry fee of P1,100. The fastest win champion will get the jackpot prize of P75,000. Meanwhile, the annual Las Piñas 6-stag derby will be held on Aug. 24 and 26. Screening of stags, eight to 10 months old, will start Aug. 1. Call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

LA SALLE-ATENEO: The De La Salle Alumni Association and the Ateneo Golf Foundation signs an extension agreement in favor of Fil-Estate Golf/Club Leisure Management Corp. to run and operate the La Salle-Ateneo Match Play. Seated (from left): Jay Gervacio, president DLSAA; Lito Tanjuatco, chair DLSAA; Robert John Sobrepeña, chair, FEGDI; Iggy Clavecilla, president, AGF; and Andy Dumlao. Standing are Tito Avenceña and Peng Perez de Tagle.

Tans shine; Paref-Springdale scores

CEBU—SIBLINGS EDSEL AND Emylou Tan gave Bethany two individual titles even as Paref-Springdale and Sacred Heart expectedly romped off to runaway wins in team play at the close of the 2nd Samsung Vismin Interscholastic Golf Championships at the Cebu Country Club course here.

Edsel Tan sparkled with 52 points, equivalent to two-over-par in medal play, in capturing the overall individual plum, and her younger sister followed suit by edging two CIE bets for the top award in the girls' special division.

Sacred Heart went all the way in the boys' high school division with Franz Josel Olea firing 43 and Charles Daniel Uy and Franz Dy contributing 40 each for 123 for the day and 359 for three days, giving them a 64-point victory over Paref-Springdale. The fourth member of the team was Kento Nakada whose 35 didn't count.

Paref Springdale cruised to a 15-point win over University of St. La Salle in the boys' grade school competitions. Angelo Jose Gandionco scored 39 while Martin Mendoza and Jhan Uy backed him up with 34 and 18, respectively, for a three-day aggregate of 266.

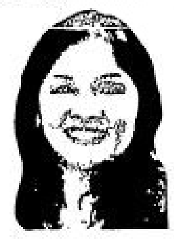
The team trophies in the girls division were won by CIE in high school-college play and Our Lady of Lourdes-Bukidnon in the grade school bracket.

The Interscholastics was also sponsored by KZG, Custom Clubmakers, Sunbolt, C-Lium Fibre, Taylormade, Titleist, Microtel inn & Suites.

With Tan winning the overall plum, Chepe Dulay of University of St. La Salle took the high school division individual title.

New PBA team's nightmares

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

ALTHOUGH HE has won three games and lost none in the ongoing 2006 UAAP wars, Ateneo head coach Norman Black said winning has not been easy for him and the Blue Eagles.

"Every team is highly competitive this year, every victory is hard-earned, said Norm, heaving a sigh of relief after the Blue Eagles squeaked past the Leo Austria-mentored Adamson Falcons by a point last Thursday.

Norman admitted he is feeling the absence of 6'8" Japeth Aguilar, who is now based in the United States and is aiming to take a crack at the NBA in the near future.

"I have a very good team, but we would have been more effective with a big defensive asset like Japeth," Norm said.

***

UE headcoach Dindo Pumaren shares Norman's observation.

"*Pantay-pantay ngayon ang lakas ng mga* teams. With La Salle out, every squad is a potential for the Final Four. *Halos lahat ng* games, very close. *Ang ganda ngang panoorin*," Dindo said.

The Warriors, fancied as the team to beat this season, currently hold a 2-0 record. They have defeated Adamson and the FEU Tamaraws (in overtime).

***

Remember Ed Carvajal, the 6'6" Crispa cager who survived a massive stroke caused by a congenital aneurysm back in the early 1970's?

Completely incapacitated at such an early age, Ed has been unheard of since. A lot of people , including myself, have been wondering how he is now.

Well, very recently, I was surprised to receive word about Ed from a friend who is in touch with his relatives.

She was happy to report that, after all these years—decades in fact—the former MICAA cager is still very much alive.

Unfortunately, his condition has hardly improved over the decades. He is still incapacitated.

The incident happened over 30 years ago, when Ed was in his early 20's, if I remember correctly.

He must now be in his fifties.

***

The nightmare persists for Welcoat owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que.

"The situation is the same. We've been wracking our brains looking at ways and means to form a competitive team for the PBA. What happens if we fail to form one? *Baka tambakan kami* every game," Raymond voiced his worst fear again the other day.

With Welcoat the last to pick in the first round of the rookie draft, Raymond is not too optimistic about getting the talent his team needs from the amateur pool.

Nor from the expansion pool, where the nine PBA teams get to protect 10 of their players.

"We just don't know where to get our materials," said Raymond, who informed us that they will be holding try-outs first week of August to take a look at the talents available in the free agent market.

***

Injured cager Eugene Tejada graced last Wednesday's Game 5 of the PBA best-of-seven championship series in a wheelchair to cheer for his teammates who were projected to end the series that day.

Tejada continues to be a part of the Purefoods Chunkee Giants. His contract expired this July but was renewed for another 6 months by PFC governor Rene Pardo who is scheduled to retire at the end of the season.

***

I just remembered something significant which the Big J said when he guested in the recent MVP awards of the PBA.

The former senator said he was very happy that homegrown talents led by MVP James Yap, not Fil-Ams, dominated the awards this year.

Naascu tourney reels off today

UNIVERSITY OF MANILA WILL BEGIN ITS quest for a sixth straight crown today when the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities men's (Naascu) basketball gets going today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Hawks, owner of the longest winning streak in collegiate basketball history with 86 straight victories, will battle last year's second placer STI in the first game at 2 p.m.

Preceding the match is the opening ceremony which will feature Naascu president Dr. Ernesto Jay Adalem of host St. Clare. Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao and boxing association president Manny Lopez were also invited.

New Era faces University of Makati at 4 p.m. following St. Clare's 2:30 p.m. meeting with AMA Computer University.

Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasay battles Centro Escolar at 11:30 a.m., while Holy Angel tests newcomer San Sebastian-Cavite at 1 p.m.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Letran slips past gritty Mapua

GAMES WEDNESDAY (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs JRU (Srs)
4 p.m.—San Beda vs Letran (Srs/Jrs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

COMPLACENCY ALMOST DID THE defending champions in.

Blowing a huge 20-point cushion, the Letran Knights weathered a fumbling performance in the second half to slip past the Mapua Cardinals, 74-71, and keep the solo lead in the NCAA men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

And this time, it took more than just coach Louie Alas' two trusted stars to secure his team's sixth straight win.

Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban combined for 36 points for the Knights, who nevertheless needed key contributions from Andro Quiday and Rey Dangcal in the closing minutes to preserve their unbeaten slate.

"We were passive," said Alas. "Good thing Quinday and Dangcal clicked off the bench. "

Earlier, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins wrapped up its first-round campaign with a 66-61 triumph over the struggling St. Benilde Blazers.

After a fairly quiet performance in the opening minutes, Gabby Espinas regained his composure and fired 11 of his 15 points in the second half on top of 14 rebounds and four blocks.

Although the Dolphins boosted their record to 5-2, coach Joel Dualan insists that they are still playing below potential: "The way we're playing, we're still far from contenders Letran and San Beda."

The Cardinals dropped to 3-3 after a potential game-tying three pointer by Kelvin dela Peña missed at the buzzer.

The Knights posted a commanding 20-point lead, 41-21, in the second period behind the strong early showing of Bautista and Aban.

The scores:

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 66—Espinas 15, Garrido 12, Santos 12, Castro 9, David 7, Navarro 6, Hermosa 2, Amaparado 2, Salem 1, McCoy 0, Belga 0, Vidal 0.

ST. BENILDE 61—M. Urra 14, Layug 9, David 8, Aldover 7, Robles 6, Manlapaz 6. Devaras 4, Manding 4, Johnston 3, D. Urra 0, Cadiz 0, Libunao 0.

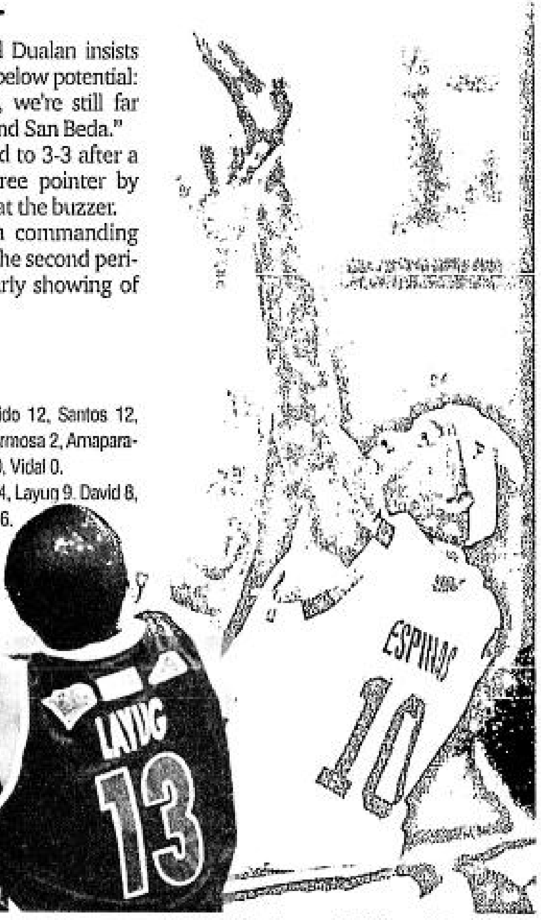
Quarters: 12-13, 25-30, 43-42, 66-61

Third Game (Srs)

LETRAN 74—Bautista 19, Aban 17, Daa 10, Quinday 8, Mondragon 8, Dangcal 7, Faundo 2, Balneg 2, Jazul 1, Realista 0, Guevarra 0.

MAPUA 71—Tiongco 19, Del Rosario 13, Dela Pena 10, Mazo 9, Gonzales 7, Co 7, N. Pascual 3, J. Pascual 3, Sumalinog 0. Guillermo 0.

Quarters: 23-18, 46-31, 54-53, 74-71



GABBY Espinas of PCU and Gerald Christopher Layug of St. Benilde battle for a rebound. ERIK ARAZAS

Tamaraws take on Bulldogs

WITH THEIR BEST PLAYER GONE, FAR Eastern U coach Bert Flores made it clear to the Tamaraws to expect a tough season in the UAAP men's basketball tournament.

And the challenges did come early for the defending champions.

Winless in two games, the Tamaraws will try to secure their first victory of the post-Arwind Santos era when they tackle the similarly struggling National U Bulldogs in the lone senior match at 4 p.m. today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

"No need to press the panic button," said Flores. "The boys have been fighting, we haven't lost by big margins."

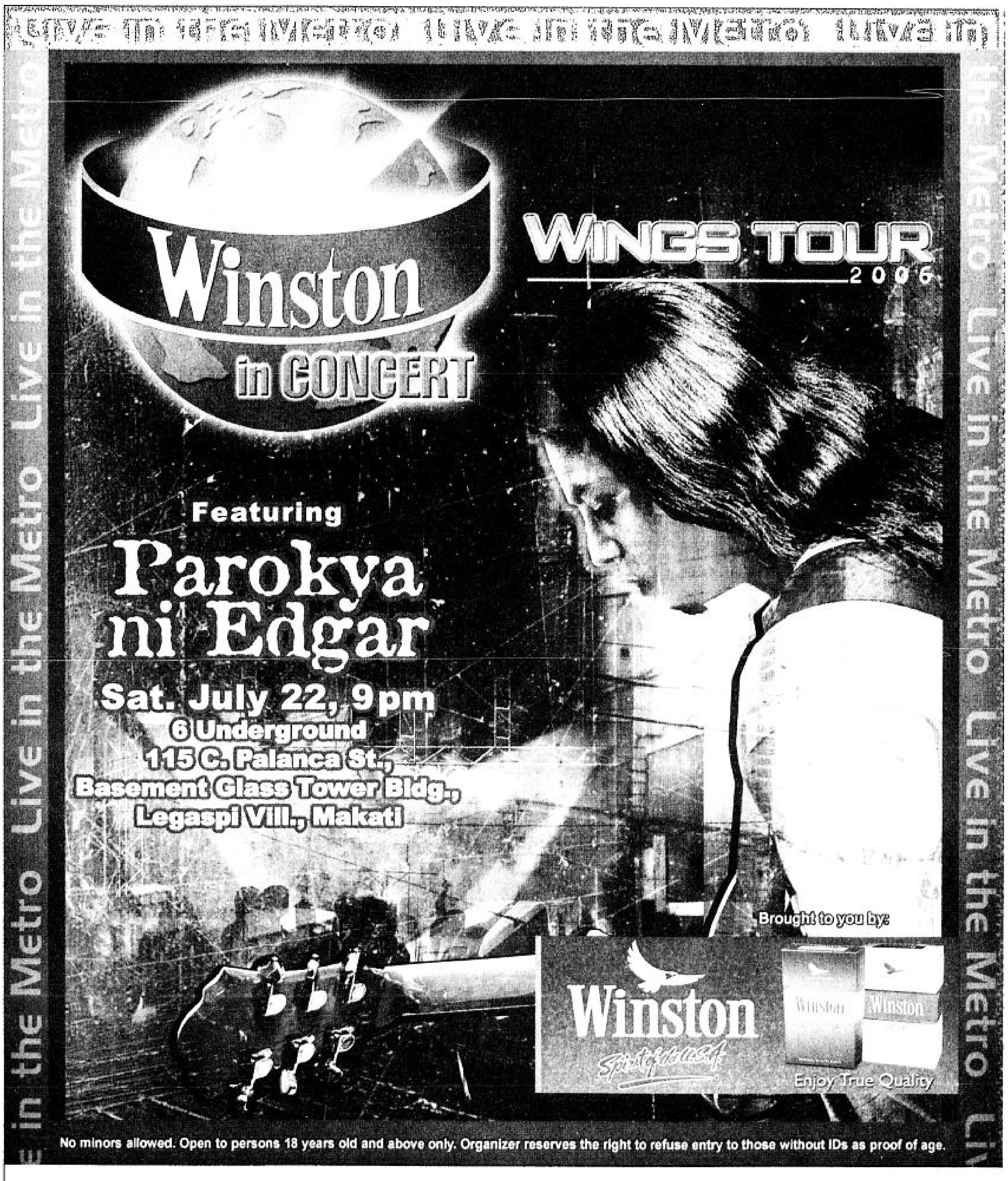
Still, the cellar is an unfamiliar place for the Tamaraws. The last time FEU opened with a 0-2 record was in 1996, a year when their current players were still in elementary.

Flores believes the Tamaraws have already adjusted from the departure of Santos, the league's Most Valuable Player in the last two seasons.

"So far I'm satisfied because the rookies have been performing well," said Flores. "I won't question the players' desire to win. I know they'll step up. We'll peak soon." *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Ateneo	3	0
UE	2	0
UP	1	1
UST	1	1
Adamson	1	2
FEU	0	2
NU	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
9 a.m.—UP vs NU (Jrs)
11 a.m.—FEU vs UST (Jrs)
2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UE (Jrs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs NU (Srs)



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SPORTS

Magical eagle powers Woods to 3-shot lead

HOYLAKE, ENGLAND—IT MIGHT BE PREmature to declare a major tournament over by lunchtime on the second day but who will bet against Tiger Woods after what he did to Royal Liverpool's 14th hole on Friday.

The 456-yard dog leg is one of the jewels in the crown of the Hoylake links, the hole most of the pros had identified as the toughest on the course hosting the British Open for the first time since 1967.

Even Tiger himself had struggled with it on Thursday, when he needed to get up and down from the greenside rough to save par.

Friday was a different story. After splitting the fairway with a two-iron off the tee, Woods pulled out his four iron and rifled his second shot straight at the flag that was shimmering in the sunshine 205 yards ahead of him.

The raised green meant that the world number one could not actually see the ball take a couple of bounces and roll into the hole for an eagle two that seems destined to be recognized as the defining moment of the 135th Open Championship.

But the huge roar that erupted from the crowd circling the green soon had him exchanging high-fives with his Kiwi caddy Steve Wilson.

Even Nick Faldo, with whom Woods has a famously prickly relationship, discreetly approached his playing partner to offer congratulations and a friendly touch of knuckles.

If they were watching in the clubhouse as they waited to start their second rounds, Phil Mickelson and Ernie Els would have been forgiven for thinking they might as well head straight for the airport.

The wonder shot left Tiger at 11 under par, three shots clear of the chasing pack, which was also the position in which he finished his round after picking up one more birdie, at the long 16th, to complete a seven-under par 65.

That equaled the course record set earlier in the day by Chris DiMarco, and only a loose tee-shot on the 18th, where Woods would normally expect to reach the green in two and secure at least a birdie, cost him the opportunity to set a new mark.

Understandably however, he was not frustrated about that minor hiccup, and he acknowledged the significance of his eagle.

"That's a hole where you want to just make four and get out of there," he said. "So it is a huge bonus.

"I couldn't actually see the ball go in. I was just aiming at the left edge of the TV tower and trying to keep it as flat as possible and I hit it flush.

WOODS: Back on top. AFP

"I wasn't trying to get the ball in the hole, I was just trying to get it on the green, believe me."

A round that was to deliver so many fireworks, actually started off looking as if it might be something of a damp squib. *AFP*

FLOYD Landis caps an amazing ride with a pumped fist. AFP

Landis comes alive with stunning ride

MORZINE, FRANCE—WRITTEN off as hopeless just a day earlier, Floyd Landis needed a once-in-a-lifetime ride to revive his sagging chances of victory in the Tour de France on Thursday.

Did he ever deliver.

With a sensational display of brio and guts in the style of seven-time Tour champion Lance Armstrong, the American put himself back in the title hunt with a solo win in the last Alpine stage.

The astonishing rebound silenced nay-sayers—including Landis himself—who believed his chances to win on Sunday were doomed after he lost more than 8 minutes to race leader Oscar Pereiro of Spain in a punishing stage just 24 hours earlier.

"I was very, very disappointed yesterday for a little while," Landis said. "Today I thought I could show that at least I would keep fighting.

Sensing his rivals would be relatively depleted, Landis pedaled like a man possessed—going all out for his Phonak squad.

In the first climb, Landis brashly spurted ahead of Pereiro, wearing the yellow jersey, and other key Tour contenders—catching then overtaking a breakaway group that had gotten ahead earlier.

One by one, he left them all behind.

Landis, who rides with an injured hip, pumped his right fist in celebration as he crossed the finish of the 200.5-kilometer (124.3-mile) ride—the last stage in the Alps—in 5 hours, 23 minutes, 36 seconds.

He began the day in 11th place, trailing Pereiro by 8 minutes, 8 seconds. By the time he finished, he had jumped to third, and had closed the time gap to an incredible 30 seconds.

The 30-year-old slashed the deficit by finishing 7:08 ahead of Pereiro. He also trimmed an extra 30 seconds by earning bonus points for winning the stage and placing well in sprints. *AP*

ZIDANE AP

Fifa penalizes Zidane, Materazzi

ZURICH, SWITZERLAND—ZINEDINE Zidane was banned by Fifa for three games Thursday for head-butting Italy defender Marco Materazzi during the World Cup final. Now retired, the former France captain will serve his punishment by doing community work.

Materazzi was suspended for two matches for provoking Zidane with insults.

World soccer's governing body also fined Zidane 7,500 Swiss francs (US$6,000; euro4,750) and Materazzi 5,000 francs (US$4,000; euro3,200) after a disciplinary committee heard the French player's account of what led to the incident.

Zidane, who retired after his team's loss in the July 9 final in Berlin, was sent off for ramming Materazzi in the chest with his head.

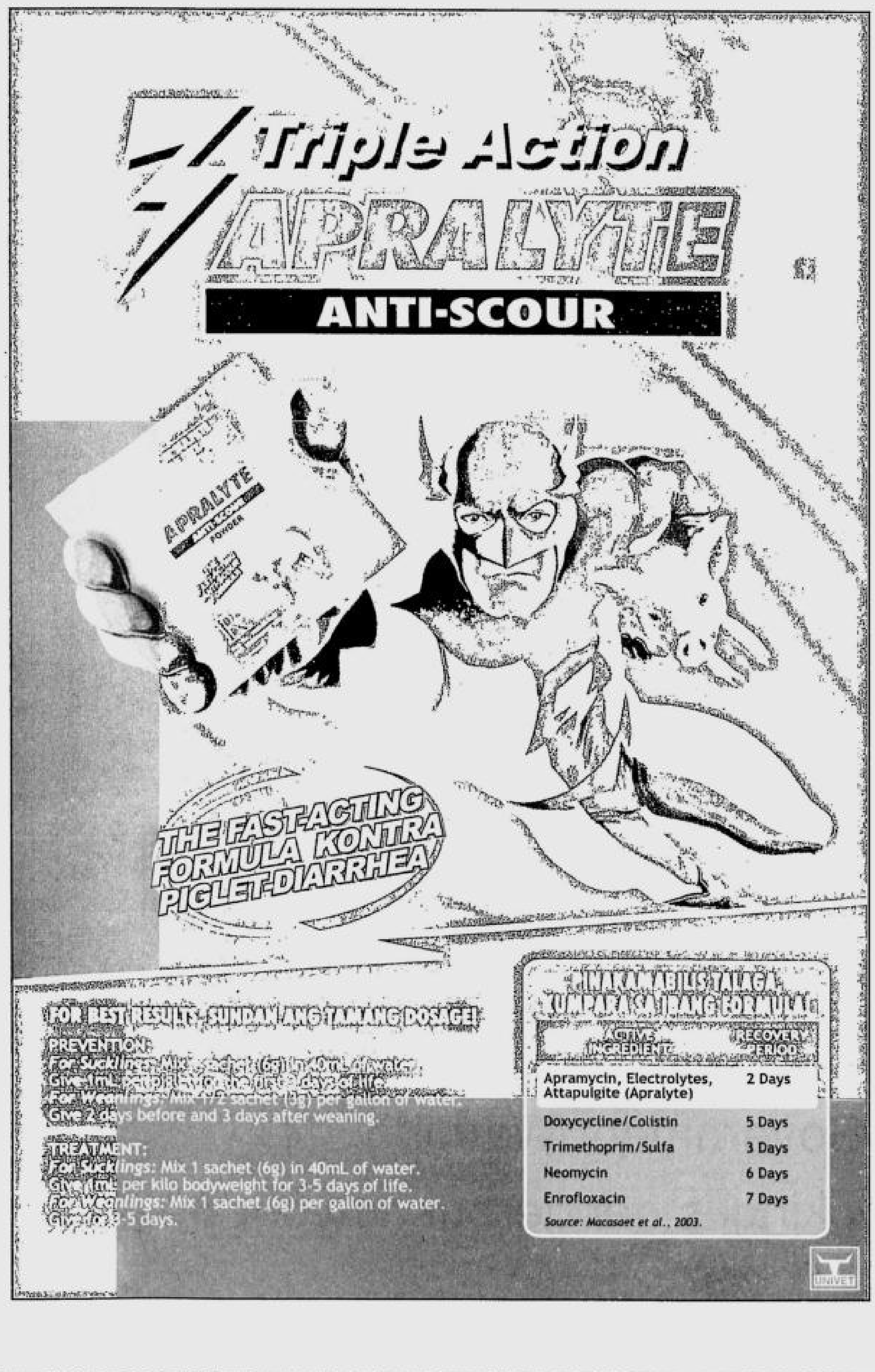
He agreed to complete three days of community service with children as part of Fifa's humanitarian projects.

"Community service is not something foreseen in the regulations," Fifa spokesman Andreas Herren said. "It is a gesture, given the special circumstances involved."

Zidane has said he attacked Materazzi because he insulted his mother and sister, while Materazzi denied insulting Zidane's mother.

Fifa said Materazzi was punished for "repeatedly provoking Zidane."

"Both players stressed that Materazzi's comments had been defamatory but not of a racist nature," Fifa said in a statement. *AP*



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Source: Macasaet et al., 2003.

UNIVET

Hard hats on, lunch pails in tow, NBA stars start 'paradise' camp

LAS VEGAS—HAWKS CAPTAIN JOE JOHNson didn't have to continue his annual ritual of criss-crossing the country in search of the most challenging summer pick-up basketball games.

He had an invitation this year, along with 23 other players, to the US national team's training camp in preparation for next month's World Championships in Japan.

"This is the best run for an NBA player anywhere on the planet," an animated Johnson said after practice wrapped up Thursday morning at Cox Pavilion on the campus of UNLV. "Look at these guys we've got in the gym. Where else can you go and have LeBron [James] and Dwyane [Wade] on one side and Carmelo [Anthony] and Chauncey [Billups] on the other? It doesn't get any better than this. And you know how much I love to play ball, so this is paradise for me.

There may not be a more important job in American basketball right now than this one. With USA Basketball's complete makeover after an 11-6 record in international competition the past four years, USA Basketball general manager Jerry Colangelo and head coach Mike Krzyzewski know that the resurrection of the program has to begin here.

"This group is already different," said Wade. "The guys already have an understanding of what we're trying to do, and we're going to have a little more time to prepare."

And if the first two days are any indication, they're going to enjoy themselves a lot more this time. When James got up from an interview and hollered that he needed "five bags of ice" for his aching bones, Wade grinned and shouted back, "that's because you're 30. Check the birth certificate."

CLEVELAND star LeBron James (left) guards Miami hotshot Dwyane Wade. REUTERS

Dwight Howard said he was worried initially that this boot camp would be a smile-free zone, what with all the pressure and advance warnings about players showing up with their hard hats on and lunch pails in tow.

"They told me I better come and be in the best shape of my life and be ready to go," the Orlando Magic star said. "But honestly, we've had a really good time so far. We've worked hard. But it's been good work, fun work, if that makes any sense. We've been doing the kind of stuff we'd all be doing on our own if we weren't here. Because the truth is our lives revolve around this game anyway." *NYTimes News Service*

CELEBRITY JAM
NBA stars Andre Iguodala of the Philadelphia 76ers (backrow, left) and Channing Frye of the New York Knicks (back row, right) pay a courtesy call to Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte, who is flanked by the San Antonio silver dancers. The NBA Madness ends today with Celebrity Jam—a sports, music-and-entertainment extravaganza at the Araneta Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Belmonte will make the ceremonial toss.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

SATURDAY Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor
Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor
Rito P. Asilo

Two Cinemalaya 2006 entries fulfill their promise

By Nestor U. Torre

JETT Pangan plays himself in "Tulad ng Dati."

WHEN WE JUDGED THE story and screenplay phases of the 2006 Cinemalaya film competition, two of the most promising screenplays were "Batad, Sa Paang Palay" and "Tulad ng Dati." So, when the ongoing festival opened some days ago, we made it a point to watch those movies first, to see if the scripts' promise has been fulfilled by the finished films.

For Benji Garcia's "Batad," the answer is yes. The film tells the simple but significant story of a young man (Alcris Galura) living in the Mountain Province, whose big dream is to own a pair of nifty sports shoes.

Rice terraces

There's much more at stake than just the shoes, of course. The young man's father (Noni Buencamino) repairs the disintegrating rice terraces in their community, but he can't do much to stop his son from dreaming of escaping his "dead-end" life in Batad, and head for the big city, as many other youths have.

So, the movie's story becomes a trans-generational and counter-cultural conflict that's moving in its simplicity, and yet challenging in the depth of its meaning.

Galura and Gina Alajar turn in felt and luminous performances, as do the actresses who play the boy's sister and the teenage village girl who steals his heart. On the other hand, Buencamino is a very fine actor, but looks too citified to be completely believable as the boy's father.

Also on the minus side, the movie's images don't showcase and highlight the beauty and grandeur of the location's topography as well as they should.

There are too many small scenes that focus on a few characters without placing them in a spatial context that could more pertinently vivify the cultural conflict that is at the root of the movie's thematic objective.

Limitation

Despite this limitation, however, "Batad" holds together well, and merits viewers' appreciation.

The same goes for Mike Sandejas' "Tulad ng Dati," which is a very different kind of movie, but also tackles a significant theme, how issues of the past have to be resolved before the present and the future can come into their own.

Even more impressively, this worthy theme is vivified in musical terms, with the members of The Dawn playing themselves. At first, the fear was that the gifted musicians would turn out to be stolid actors, but the trepidation has turned out to be unfounded, and they acquit themselves as thespians in a straightforward and felt way.

The film also scores points with its handling of its plot's amnesia element. In other local films, it's used mainly for melodramatic effect, but in "Tulad ng Dati," it's employed to force the film's central character to confront and exorcize his demons in an effectively and strikingly psychological way.

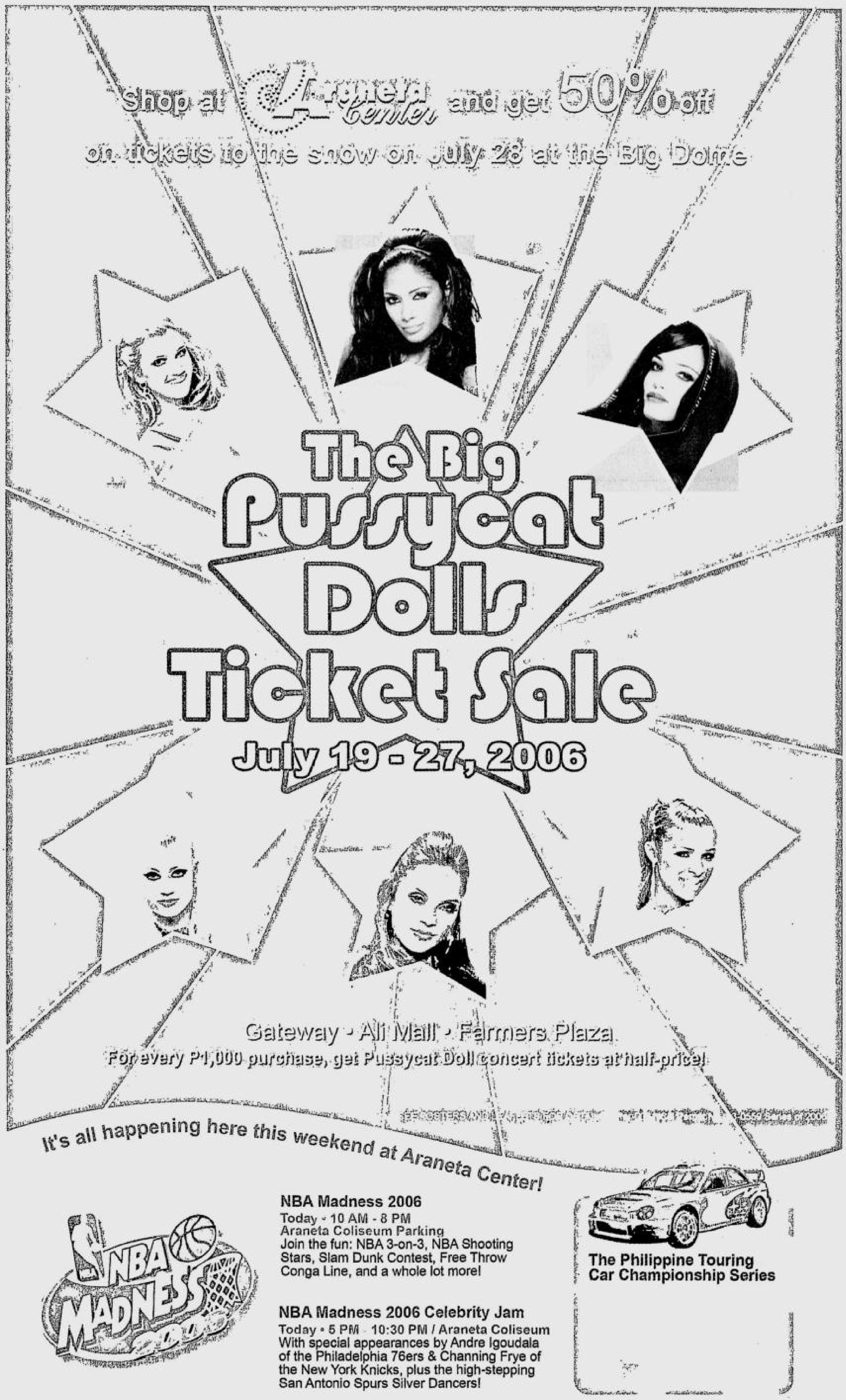
Musical numbers

Less effective is the movie's final fourth section, which has too many musical numbers and resolves its protagonist's domestic issues too neatly. The long confrontation with band member Teddy Diaz's ghost is also excessively extended.

But, these excesses and distractions don't substantially diminish the film's achievement, and the production should be seen by music and film buffs alike.

So far, so good. See these and other Cinemalaya films today and tomorrow, to give our new filmmakers a boost, and to treat yourself to a bracingly optimistic view of the present and future of Filipino filmmaking—the Cinemalaya way.

ALAJAR. Felt and luminous performance.



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10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

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PAREÑO. Memorable performance.

Explosion of youthful talent, fresh ideas at indie filmfest

By Rito P. Asilo

JEFFREY Jeturian's "Kubrador" (The Bet Collector), recent winner of the Critics' Prize at the 28th Moscow International Film Festival and opening film at the current Cinemalaya independent filmfest, takes an unvarnished look at three days in the life of Amy (Gina Pareño), a middle-aged jueteng bet collector as she goes about her daily task of taking care of an irresponsible husband, collecting bets for the popular illegal-numbers game, and evading and charming the cops who are always on her tail.

Omnipresent

In what is arguably Jeturian's most accomplished film to date, the director utilizes the omnipresent camera to hover over and around its protagonist to capture the poverty-stricken, dog-eat-dog community she inhabits. This is the world as Amy sees it—and it's not a pretty sight to see.

The beauty of the film rests not so much in how it manages to vividly capture the squalor and desperation of a seemingly hopeless world, but in the strength of character shown in the face of every person in this dirt-poor neighborhood.

Residents

In fact, you won't hear much bawling from residents of the neighborhood's narrow, decrepit shanties. They do complain, but they know there's not much use crying over something they can hardly do anything about.

Pareño is memorable as the headstrong, hardworking wife who seemingly takes the cruel blows of life in stride, but is really living in the bittersweet memory of a dearly departed son—a military man who perished in the line of duty. In moving images, Jeturian juxtaposes Amy's inner turmoil with the physical hopelessness of the world she inhabits.

10 entries

On the other hand, there's no doubt the 10 entries of the indie festival's short film category likewise capture varied slices of *Pinoy* sensibilities—from the substantial and unnerving to the hollow

EXPLOSION/ A2-4

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It has a sentimental storyline about a young girl named Blue (Nina Siemaszko) who is forced into prostitution by economic circumstances. She tries to live a double life in and out of the brothel and, in a vaguely Elizabethan twist, ends up providing paid pleasure to her dream man while she is in disguise.

The knowledge Blue gains while in disguise allows her to evaluate her lover's sincerity later on. With the aid of a sympathetic brothel bodyguard Sully, Blue escapes the hold exerted on her by the madam, leaves town, and tries to establish herself as a high school student - in the same high school where her dream boy is the school quarterback! They end up courting one another chastely, although he remains unaware that he has already had sex with her. Meanwhile, the jilted madam wants Blue back, and will stop at nothing to get her.

MTRCB Rating: R-18

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Jennylyn finds healing in music

By Jocelyn Valle

"LETTING GO" IS NOT JUST THE title of Jennylyn Mercado's sophomore album; it's also the actress' approach to self-healing. The physical abuse she was exposed to at age three had left her emotionally and psychologically scarred.

The experience has also made her very wary of people, which, in turn, has earned her the reputation of being aloof and bratty when she found fame in "StarStruck."

TV series

"I've learned to let go. *Ngayon, wala nang* fear," Jennylyn declares, her eyes twinkling as she takes a break from taping scenes for the TV series, "I Luv New York."

"Supporting a group of kids with the same experience has also helped me find healing. *Naiintindihan ko na rin ang takbo ng* show business," she adds. "*Komportable na akong kumilos, at alam ko na kung ano ang dapat gawin.*"

At 19, Jennylyn is having the time of her life as she pursues her life-long passion (singing) and newfound love (acting). But, she also sees herself trying her luck in another field—in a place like New York.

Weather

Needless to say, she loved the taste of the Big Apple when she, along with castmates Jolina Magdangal, Marvin Agustin and Mark Herras, stayed there for a month to tape scenes for the show. "We had so much fun. *Parang hindi kami nagtatrabaho.* I miss the weather there. *Nung nandun kami, nag-*snow*—sobrang lamig!*," she relates.

Jennylyn recalls running into Filipinos in New York, and getting tickled pink everytime they recognized her. "May Pinoy TV (GMA 7's international cable affiliate) *na kasi, kaya kilala nila ako,*" she explains. "*Pero, mas gusto ko pa rin dito sa* Pilipinas *kasi dito ako pinanganak at lumaki.*"

Bratty character

In fact, Jennylyn has little in common with Natalie, the bratty character she plays on the TV series, who flees to New York after her cash-strapped parents tell her that she's been betrothed to the son of their wealthy associates. Natalie then finds romance when she meets the character played by Mark Herras, her former real-life boyfriend.

Romance may have withered on the vine for Jennylyn and Mark, but the actress insists that their relationship is better than ever. She reasons: "We're better friends now."

MERCADO. Having the time of her life.

BICE. Triumph of corporate rock over originality.

Bo Bice goes through the motions in 'The Real Thing'

By Noelani Torre

"AMERICAN IDOL" FINALIST BO BICE IS either genuinely unaware of the possibilities for mockery that the title of his solo debut offers jaded critics, or he just has moxie. Yet, he must know that he's leaving himself wide open to snide critical attack by naming his album "The Real Thing."

After all, it's hard to reconcile his synthetically manufactured image on "American Idol" with "the real thing"—whatever *that* may be.

Maverick

Then again, Bice—the runner-up in the fourth season of "AI"—has always been a bit of a maverick. He's projected himself as your honest-to-goodness, regular Joe who just happens to sing well. But, now that "AI: Season 4" has long been over, and a career has to be made, whether or not that image is supported by the music in his album is the $10,000-question.

Sales-wise, the answer to that question is positive. "The Real Thing" debuted at No. 4 on the Billboard 200 and sold 227,000 copies on its first week. But, sales alone are no clear indication of the strength of the material.

People could be buying into the "AI" craze and the charm of Bice's persona—and, if you listen to the album, you'll change that "could be" into "definitely."

Bland, homogeneous, and largely devoid of the Alabama-native's trademark rough edges, this album is a triumph of corporate rock over originality.

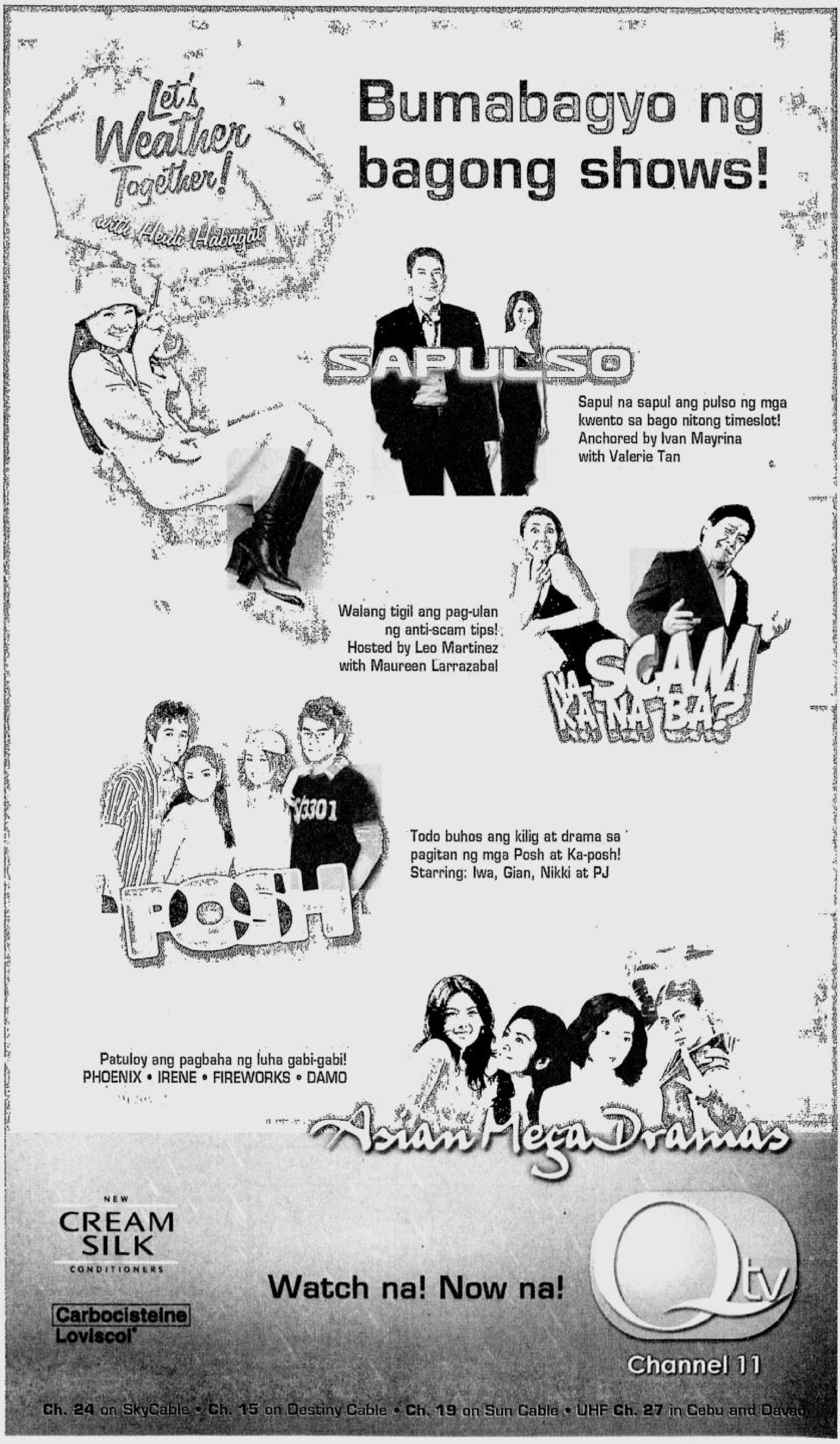
You can hear him in it, yes, but he's only going through the motions. And, Bo's personality hardly makes an appearance, overshadowed as it is by the slick production and music courtesy of executive producer, Clive Davis, and established rockers Chad Kroeger (Nickelback), Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora.

Radio-friendly

Sure, the songs are radio-friendly, but they also sound like they've been culled from any alt-rock album in the market. If this is what studio work does for someone like Bice—who was already interesting before the imagists and publicists got their hands on him—then God help those who are as insipid as watered-down milk.

It's as if the producers and the "AI" team hadn't been watching their own show. If they had, they would have noticed that what made Bice a hit was not only his flexible, husky voice and down-home style, but also his love for rock 'n' roll and the pure excitement he generated on the show.

The main reaction that "The Real Thing" generates is boredom, and a what-a-shame feeling that such an experienced group of professionals could have mishandled a talent like Bice's. Maybe he should turn indie, instead?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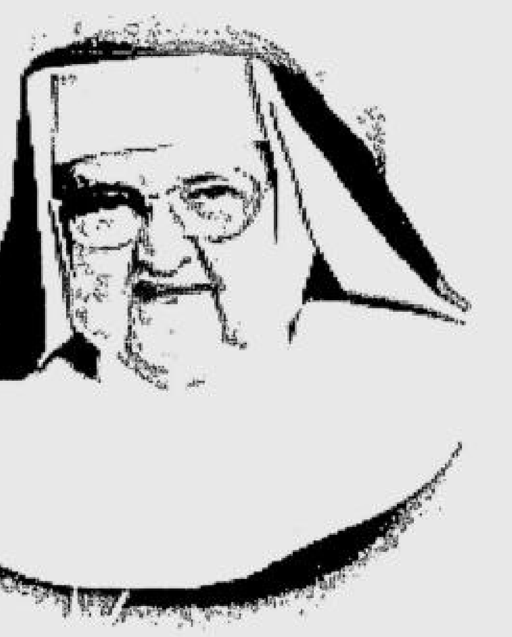
Mother Angelica is no stereotypical nun

By Lilia Borlongan-Alvarez



MOTHER ANGELICA. "Outrageous" bargain with God.

WHETHER YOU'RE feeling troubled or on top of the world, you should tune in to the replays of "Mother Angelica Live," aired Wednesdays, 7 p.m. over EWTN, the world's largest religious media network.

Mother Angelica may be currently on sick leave, but past episodes of her well-loved show continue to be aired.

The show's host founded the network herself in 1981 when she was 58 years old. But, what's so special about Mother Angelica?

Although conservative, she's not your stereotypical nun who pontificates on what's wrong with the world. She discusses the existence of purgatory, the value of the Eucharist, or the power of the priesthood without being preachy.

Concrete examples

Listen to what Mother Angelica has to say about practicing prudence and fortitude by giving concrete examples and practical applications. She says, for instance, that a mother is not prudent when she lends her entire paycheck to a neighbor even if she needs it for immediate household needs. (She advises televiewers that the mother should have given the neighbor only what she could afford.)

Fortitude

For her, the most important theological virtue is justice, but she likewise stresses the value of fortitude. She reflects on today's twisted values, or how pornography has invaded primetime TV, but she also injects humor into these discussions. She is the epitome of a "cool" nun speaking in a language everyone can relate to.

On the topic of interior mortification and suffering, Mother Angelica makes the search for holiness seem easy as she relates her own impatience when she was younger, and how she dealt with her crippling handicaps.

When she is requested to say a prayer for a departed loved one, a child who's hooked on drugs, or a husband who has abandoned his family, she prays from the heart. She lends a sympathetic ear and tells her viewers to pray for the alleviation of their anxieties.

You may wonder how Mother Angelica, now 83, found her vocation. EWTN anchor Raymond Arroyo, author of the biography, "The Remarkable Story of a Nun, Her Nerve and a Network of Miracles," reveals that Mother Angelica was abandoned by her father at age five.

She grew up plagued by illness and self-doubt. "Rita Rizzo (her given name) experienced a miraculous healing in 1943, and this drew her to the cloistered life at the age of 21," says the book.

The EWTN website talks about her "outrageous bargain with God that presaged the building of a monastery in Birmingham, Alabama and the difficult founding of EWTN."

Final interview

It also tells of how a stroke has debilitated her "a week after completing the final interview for her biography."

But, Mother Angelica's most quotable quote could well be: "The history of EWTN isn't what we've done; it's how we've done it!"

Fil-Am looker is the latest pop star in town

AMBER. Her songs reflect pride in her *Pinoy* heritage.

By Remy Umerez

SHE IS SEXY. IN FACT, SHE CAN easily pass for the latest addition to the Viva Hotbabes. But Amber, whose real name is Amber Alejo Rowley, isn't going that route.

The demo tape she sent to different recording outfits contained songs she herself composed and sang. Viva's Vincent del Rosario liked what he heard and immediately signed up the Fil-Am talent.

Del Rosario describes his latest discovery as *the* female solo act of 2006. Dubbed local music's Pop Jewel, Amber is the voice behind the current radio hit, "Manila."

First single

"Manila," not be confused with the '70s Hotdog classic, is the first single culled from Amber's 12-track debut album, "Feel Good Music," which was launched recently at the Hard Rock Café.

Amber collaborated with producer-arranger Marcus Davis. The songs in the collection are inspired by Amber's memories as a young girl in the Philippines. Choice cuts include "In This Place," "So Beautiful," "See You Soon," "All for Nothing" and "Ikaw ang Buhay Ko." She dedicates the song, "Daddy," to her American father.

Recording artists

Like other international recording artists with Filipino blood—Apl.de.Ap of the Black Eyed Peas, Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls and Mutya Buena, formerly of the Sugarbabes—Amber is proud of her Filipino heritage, and all the cuts in the album reflect this.

She explains: "I may have grown up in the States, but a part of me never left the Philippines." The youngest of eight children, she shares that her parents are still very much in love with each other.

Rowley was born in Arizona. When she was five years old, her family (her mom is a Filipina nurse) moved back to Malolos, Bulacan (her mother's hometown) before they relocated to Angeles, Pampanga because of her father's job.

As a child, she appeared in TV commercials and had guested on local television shows like "Pen Pen de Sarapen." Her sister, Misty Blue, was even a part of "That's Entertainment."

Backup vocals

After finishing high school, the Rowleys decided to resettle in Los Angeles, California, where Amber could pursue a singing career. She worked with touring groups, and did backup vocals for artists like Hilary Duff. Later, she waxed two singles for the soundtrack of a movie.

When her contract with Universal expired, she decided to try her luck in the Philippines and see what her mother's country has in store for her.

With "Manila" enjoying frequent radio airplay, Amber has found the answer.

Immune boosters

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

THE RAINY SEASON HAS ARRIVED—AND so has the flu. We don't just need umbrellas to ward it off, we also need immune boosters.

To help us get through this time of year, Mother Nature provides us with abundant flu busters such as *kalamansi*, lemon and seedless *ponkan* oranges as preventive measures. Other inexpensive juicy concoctions:

A. Apple cider vinegar treats arthritis, sore throat, bladder infection, prostatic disorders, high blood pressure, menstrual disorders and poor digestion. It promotes weight loss and energizes the body by improving circulation.

Beneficial

B. Cinnamon has natural antifungal and antiviral properties. It alleviates cold and flu symptoms like fever, cough and chills, relieves menstrual cramps, and stimulates digestion. It is beneficial to people with diabetes due to for its hypoglycemic ability.

C. Ginger heals, cleanses and rejuvenates. It relieves asthma, cough and congestion, hypercholesterolemia, water retention, nausea, irregular and painful menstruation, constipation and poor circulation. It boosts the immune system and breaks down uric acid. Simply grate fresh ginger, squeeze the juice and add to your drinks.

D. Cayenne aids digestion, improves circulation, helps lower blood pressure and cholesterol, and wards off colds, sinus infections, and sore throat. It helps reduce fatigue, stimulates the metabolism, and eases arthritis. It's rich in vitamins A, C and other antioxidants.

Daily basis

Powerful preparations you can take on a daily basis to supplement good health include:

1. Citrus-ginger-cayenne-honey drink, which combines the best immune boosters. Prepare juice from a citrus fruit, then add the pulp squeezed from grated fresh ginger to it. Add water, honey and cayenne.

2. Papaya-citrus-honey-cayenne drink. Add water and mix in a blender.

3. Banana-mango-cinnamon-honey drink. Add water and blend.

4. Citrus-apple cider-vinegar-honey drink. Add water to citrus juice, a tablespoon of apple cider vinegar, and honey.

You, too, can experiment with juice combinations for your very own boosters. Let's drink to your health!

Explosion of youthful . . .

From page A2-2

and mundane.

Indeed,Cinemalaya has become *the* local film festival to beat. However, we find quite a number of the short-film finalists too preachy, stagey—and longer than they should be.

Our top picks include Jeck Cogema's **"Putot,"** about a young shellfish vendor (Carl Patrick Taylan) who takes care of his mentally-ill father (Nor Domingo), and Raz dela Torre's farcical **"Labada,"** about a part-time helper (Skyzx Labastilla) who suspects that her tricycle driver-husband is having an affair.

Touching

Although quite similar to Rica Arevalo's award-winning full-length feature, "ICU Bed #7," Anna Isabelle Matutina's touching semi-autobiographical **"Puwang"** is a polished family drama that examines the dynamics among a terminally-ill father (Elmo Redrico) and his three children (Roence Santos, Bon Reyes, Lorena Landicho).

Pepe Diokno and Jeanne Lim's cautionary and darkly comic **"No Passport Needed"**—about a fugitive (Bodjie Pascua) who meets his match in a Chinese businessman who's willing to sneak him into Malaysia even without a passport—may be one of the category's shortest entries (it clocks at only a little over eight minutes), but its concept is also among the best realized—*sans* the cluttered pretensions of some entries.

Stage version

We enjoyed the stage version of Mariami Tanangco's **"Gee-Gee at Waterina,"** about an aging homosexual (Lou Veloso) and his gay politician friend (Paulo Cabanero) who's negotiating for the film rights to his colorful life story.

Despite the spirited performance of Veloso, however, the movie version, while still engaging and, at times, hysterically funny, fails to effectively translate the original stage play to the big screen.

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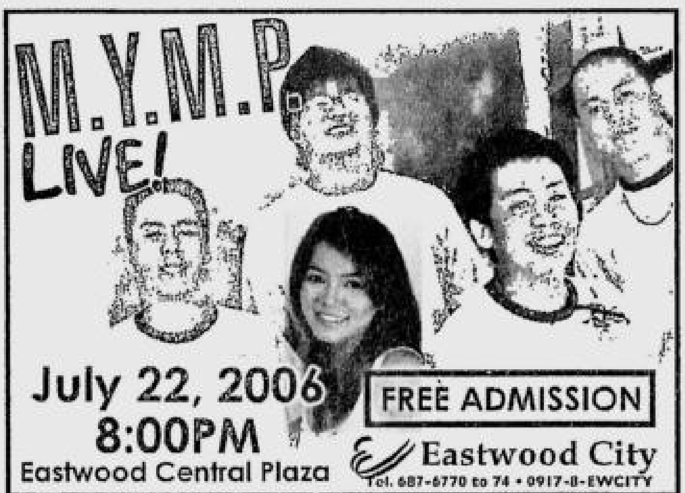

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3 LADY IN THE WATER 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 PG-13
4 RUNAWAY VACATION 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP

Justin wants new sound for pop music

PARIS—JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE WANTS TO push the boundaries of pop music with a new album, "FutureSex/LoveSounds," that marks a departure from his earlier chart-topping style, he said recently.

Timberlake's first solo album, "Justified," sold more than seven million copies and the 25-year-old performer, whose relationship with Cameron Diaz is a regular feature in tabloid newspapers, has also moved into acting. His new album is due to be released on Sept. 11.

Platform

"I realize that I have a platform to push

JUSTIN/ A2-6

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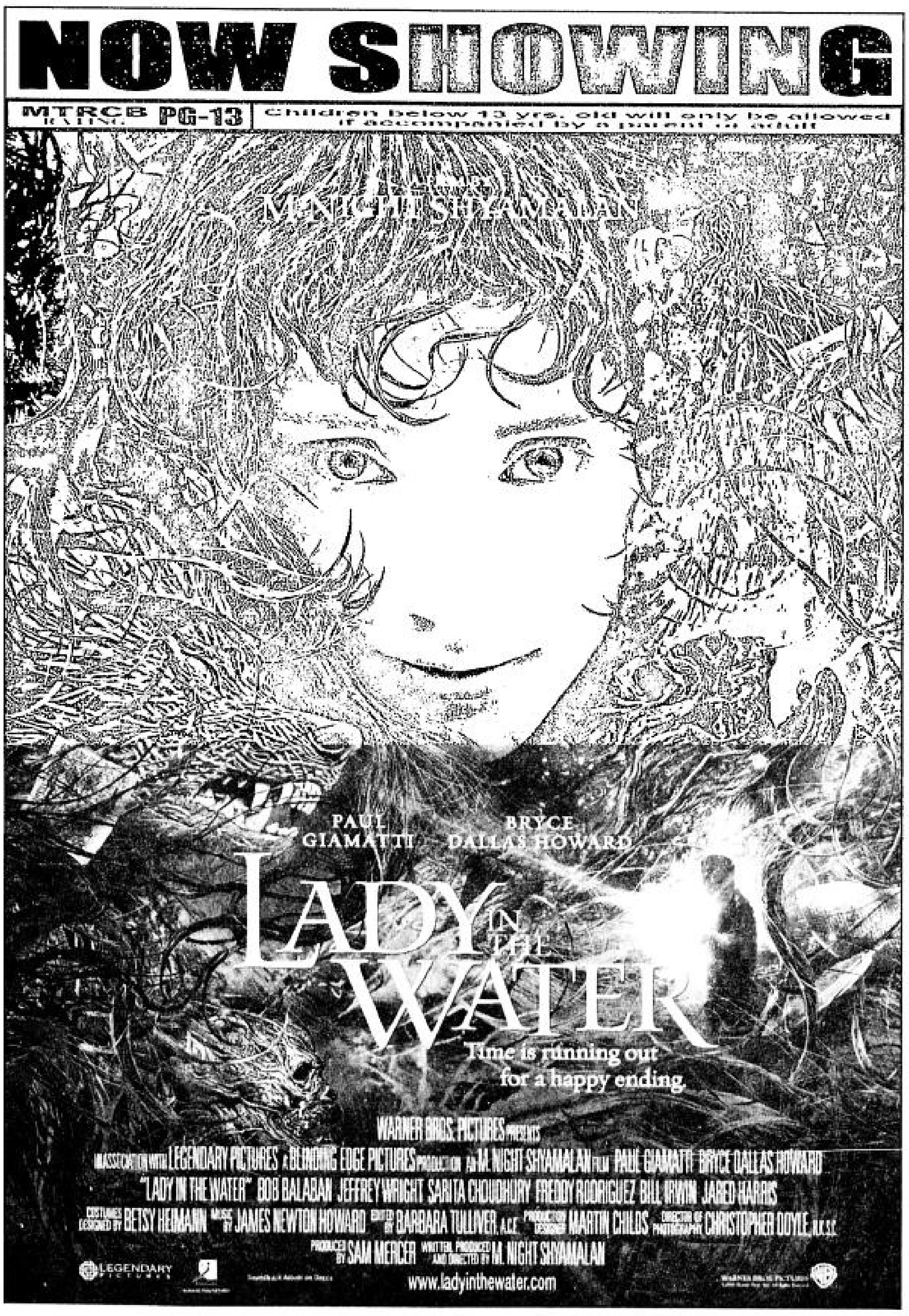
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2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS	12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
4 LADY IN THE WATER	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 WHITE LADY	12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
6 NACHO LIBRE	1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00
7 LAKE HOUSE	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 WILD ORCHID 2	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
9 RV RUNAWAY VACATION	1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
10 LOVE WRECKED	1:30 3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50

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1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 2	10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
2 WILD ORCHID 2	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 LADY IN THE WATER	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
4 RV RUNAWAY VACATION	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	10:30 1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50
6 NACHO LIBRE	10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
7 WHITE LADY	10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

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4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2	11:45 2:50 5:55 9:00
5 RV RUNAWAY VACATION	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
6 WILD ORCHID 2	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
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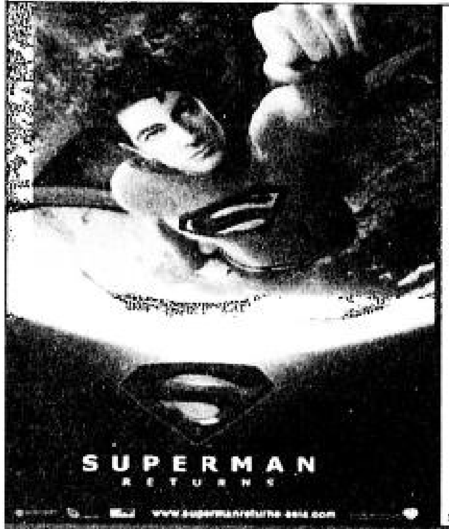
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NBC turns to drama-heavy slate

PERRY. Returns to the small screen in the drama series, "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip."

NEW YORK—NBC, STRUGGLING FOR two years to replace retired blockbuster comedies, switched gears recently to unveil a new primetime lineup that's heavy on drama, with a show biz backstage series, "Studio 60," from the man who took viewers inside the White House on "The West Wing."

Trailing the three other major networks as it nears the end of its second post-"Friends" TV season, NBC is desperate for new hits to reclaim its longtime dominance in the ratings race for viewers most coveted by advertisers—those aged 18 to 49.

Turnaround

Now, the broadcaster controlled by General Electric Co. has decided to bank its turnaround on a slate of six new dramas. These include "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" from Aaron Sorkin, whose previous TV creation, the landmark political drama, "The West Wing," ended its Emmy-winning seven-year NBC run recently.

NBC executives said new dramas have proven far easier than comedies for all the networks to get off the ground in recent years. Only one sitcom, "Two and a Half Men" on CBS, ranks among the top 20 shows most watched in primetime this season.

Notable

Sorkin's latest drama is also notable for an all-star cast that includes "West Wing" veteran, Bradley Whitford, and another familiar face from one of NBC's past hits, Matthew Perry, best known as Chandler Bing of "Friends."

They play producers struggling to boost the ratings of a fictional late-night TV sketch show. Amanda Peet co-stars as a new network executive they work for.

The show-within-a-show formula is also the premise of a new comedy, "30 Rock," starring "Saturday Night Live's" Tina Fey as the head writer of a late-night TV variety show. Alec Baldwin co-stars.

While Perry is returning to NBC's primetime schedule in a drama, the network has pulled the plug on "Joey," the "Friends" spinoff of his former sitcom cohort, Matt LeBlanc, due to anemic ratings. NBC also opted not to renew its high-profile Pentagon drama, "E-Ring," with Dennis Hopper.

Among the new series taking their place are a high school football drama, "Friday Night Lights"; crime drama, "Kidnapped," centered on the abduction of a teenage boy, and "Heroes," about a group of ordinary people who find they have super powers.

Centerpiece

But, "Studio 60" was the clear centerpiece of the 2006-2007 schedule. The show marks Sorkin's first big project since he left "West Wing" in 2003 amid reports of problems with production delays and cost overruns.

Although widely acclaimed as one of TV's most gifted writer-producers, Sorkin has struggled in the past with drug abuse. The Wall Street Journal reported that NBC executives addressed those issues in a meeting last fall and were reassured he was up for running a new series.

Flagship night

NBC's flagship night remains Thursday, when returning comedy successes, "My Name is Earl" and "The Office," will be followed by "Studio 60."

Long-running medical drama, "ER," will return immediately following "Studio 60," then take a hiatus in January for the debut of the new Irish mob drama, "The Black Donnellys." NBC will also debut a new comedy, "Twenty Good Years," starring John Lithgow.

Reuters

BARRINO. Unnerved by rape scene.

Fantasia Barrino plays herself in movie for TV

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA—"AMERICAN Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino had to be persuaded to play herself in a television movie about her hardscrabble life.

"Life is Not a Fairy Tale," which airs on Aug. 19 on Lifetime, is inspired by the R&B singer's autobiography about dropping out of high school and becoming an unwed mother at 17.

"I didn't think it was going to be tough going back playing myself, but it was, because I had to relive those moments," Barrino told the Television Critics Association's summer meeting recently.

Thankful

"At the end, I began to cry and I said, 'I went through all those things, but I know why I share my life.' I'm thankful that I was able to do it," she exclaims.

A rape scene was particularly unnerving for Barrino, who initially told director Debbie Allen she wouldn't do it.

"She talked to me, and she helped me deal with it," Barrino said. "The good part about it is, her son played the part.

Barrino was the third season winner of "Idol" and released her debut album, "Free Yourself," in 2004.

AP

Justin . . .

From page A2-5

the sound of pop music. That's the only responsibility that I put on myself in recording the album," Timberlake told a news conference. "If I'm not going to push it, who will?"

The first single from the album, "SexyBack," features a pounding bass beat and electronic sounds, and does not include the falsetto singing that has become Timberlake's trademark.

"The best way I can describe the song is what a tune would sound like if David Bowie and David Byrne decided to do a cover of James Brown's 'Sex Machine,'" Timberlake explained.

Perhaps aware of media speculation that his relationship with Diaz was going through a "rough patch," journalists were instructed to ask Timberlake only about his music and acting.

He said the new sound was the product of a broad variety of influences—from soul legends Al Green and Marvin Gaye to bands such as The Beatles and The Eagles.

Sophomore album

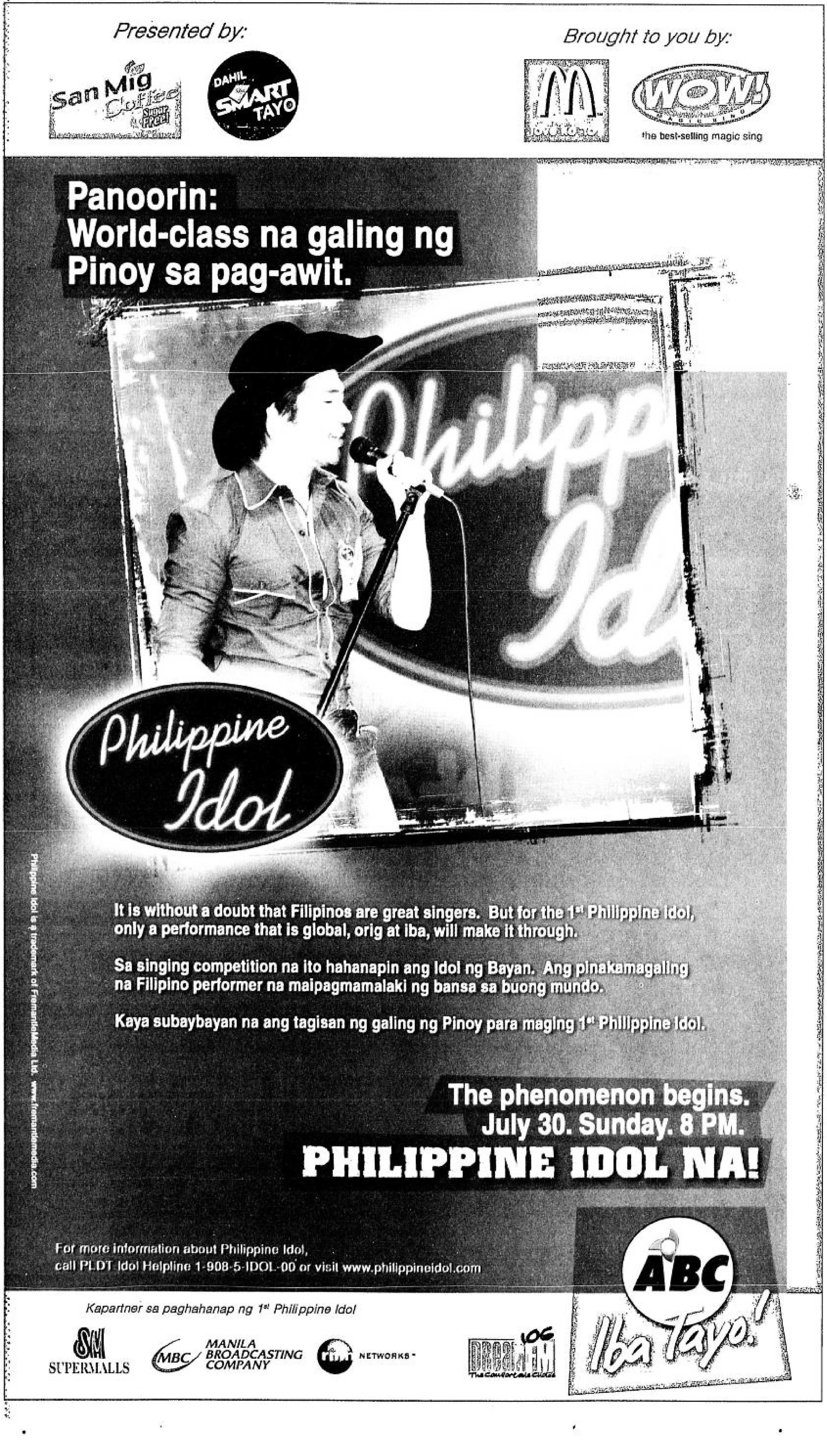
"I think it's important for a sophomore album to broaden a singer's sound and to try something new, because if you do the same thing, then your third and fourth albums have to be the same—you don't grow!," the former member of 'NSync said.

Timberlake wrote songs on the album with rapper-producer Timbaland. The album features guest vocals by Timbaland, Atlanta rapper TI and Will.I.Am of the Black-Eyed Peas.

While he wants to change pop music, he said he's not aiming to take over Michael Jackson's "king of pop" mantle.

"You guys want a new king of pop, but I don't want it—I want to keep doing what I do!," he said.

Reuters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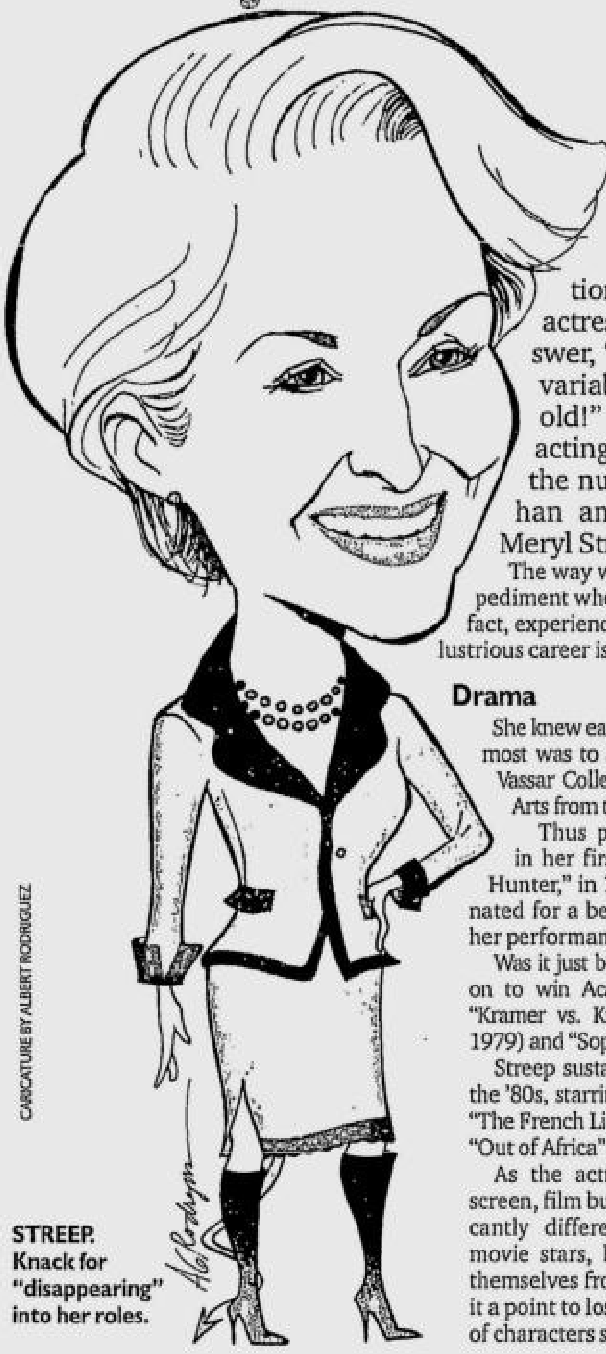
SATURDAY Special

Meryl Streep, chameleon of the cinema



CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

STREEP. Knack for "disappearing" into her roles.

By Nestor U. Torre

PEOPLE SOMEtimes ask us the slum-book question, "Who's your favorite actress?," and when we answer, "Meryl Streep," their invariable reaction is, "But she's old!" Well, if your concept of acting talent is represented by the nubile likes of Lindsay Lohan and Amanda Bynes, yes, Meryl Streep is *ancient.*

The way we see it, however, age is no impediment when it comes to acting ability—in fact, experience vastly enhances it. Streep's illustrious career is the best proof of this:

Drama

She knew early on that what she wanted to do most was to act, so she majored in drama at Vassar College and earned a Master of Fine Arts from the Yale School of Drama.

Thus properly trained, she appeared in her first films, "Julia" and "The Deer Hunter," in 1977 and 1978, and was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar for her performance in the latter film.

Was it just beginner's luck? No way. She went on to win Academy Awards for her roles in "Kramer vs. Kramer" (best supporting actress, 1979) and "Sophie's Choice" (best actress, 1982).

Streep sustained her thespic momentum in the '80s, starring in acclaimed productions like "The French Lieutenant's Woman," "Silkwood," "Out of Africa" and "Postcards from the Edge."

As the actress continued to appear onscreen, film buffs realized that she was significantly different from many other female movie stars, because they generally played themselves from film to film, while she made it a point to lose her own persona in the range of characters she was creating.

This knack for "disappearing" into her roles, plus her depth and range as a thespian, impressed critics and viewers alike, and reaped more awards for the maturing actress—multiple honors for "Sophie's Choice," "Silkwood," "Out of Africa" and "A Cry in the Dark." In fact, she is the most Oscar-nominated performer in history, with 13 nominations—and counting!

Contemporaries

This, despite the fact that Streep is already in her mid-50s, and most of her contemporaries have stopped acting, or have been relegated to minor or cameo roles.

Why has Streep proven to be the exception to this desultory rule? Her versatility is one of her main strengths, which makes it easy for directors to cast her in different roles in dramas, comedies, animated features, etc.

Her reputation as a cinematic chameleon also keeps her performances fresh and even surprising—another antidote for predictability and being regarded as passé.

These thoughts come to mind, because Streep has just come up with one of her most surprising characterizations to date in her new film, "The Devil Wears Prada." In the stylish comedy, she plays a ruthless and cynical fashion-magazine editor who makes life miserable for many of the "slaves" in her employ.

Title character

Advance word on the movie indicates that it's a new triumph for Streep. A reviewer gushes over her complex characterization of the title character:

"She carries nuance in her every pore, and endows even her lighthearted comic roles with a rich implication of inner life. With her silver hair and pale skin, her whispery diction as perfect as her posture, Streep's Miranda inspires both terror and a measure of awe. No longer simply the incarnation of evil, she is now a vision of aristocratic, purposeful and surprisingly human grace."

Wow. *That's* a review to die for. It looks like Meryl Streep is here to stay for many more creative and beguiling years to come!

NOW SHOWING

Maidens of mood, murder and mystery

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lady in the Water"
D: M. Night Shyamalan
S: Paul Giamatti, Bryce Dallas Howard

GIAMATTI. Finding purpose in a lonely life.

YOU CAN HIDE from a painful past, but you can't evade fate forever. M. Night Shyamalan's bedtime fable isn't as innocent as it seems—nor as effective:

Cleveland Heep (the magnificent Paul Giamatti) is happy to vanish among the colorful tenants of The Cove, the suburban apartment complex he manages. He is a man haunted by a painful past (he silently grieves over his murdered wife and kids) and a future with no purpose—until he finds Story (Bryce Dallas Howard), who's a narf, a nymph-like creature from a mysterious world beneath the apartment block's swimming pool.

Together with a "preordained" guardian, a symbolist, a guild of seven sisters, and a healer, Cleveland and Story must fight the demonic scrunt—the movie's requisite sinister creature—that prevents the latter from returning to her world.

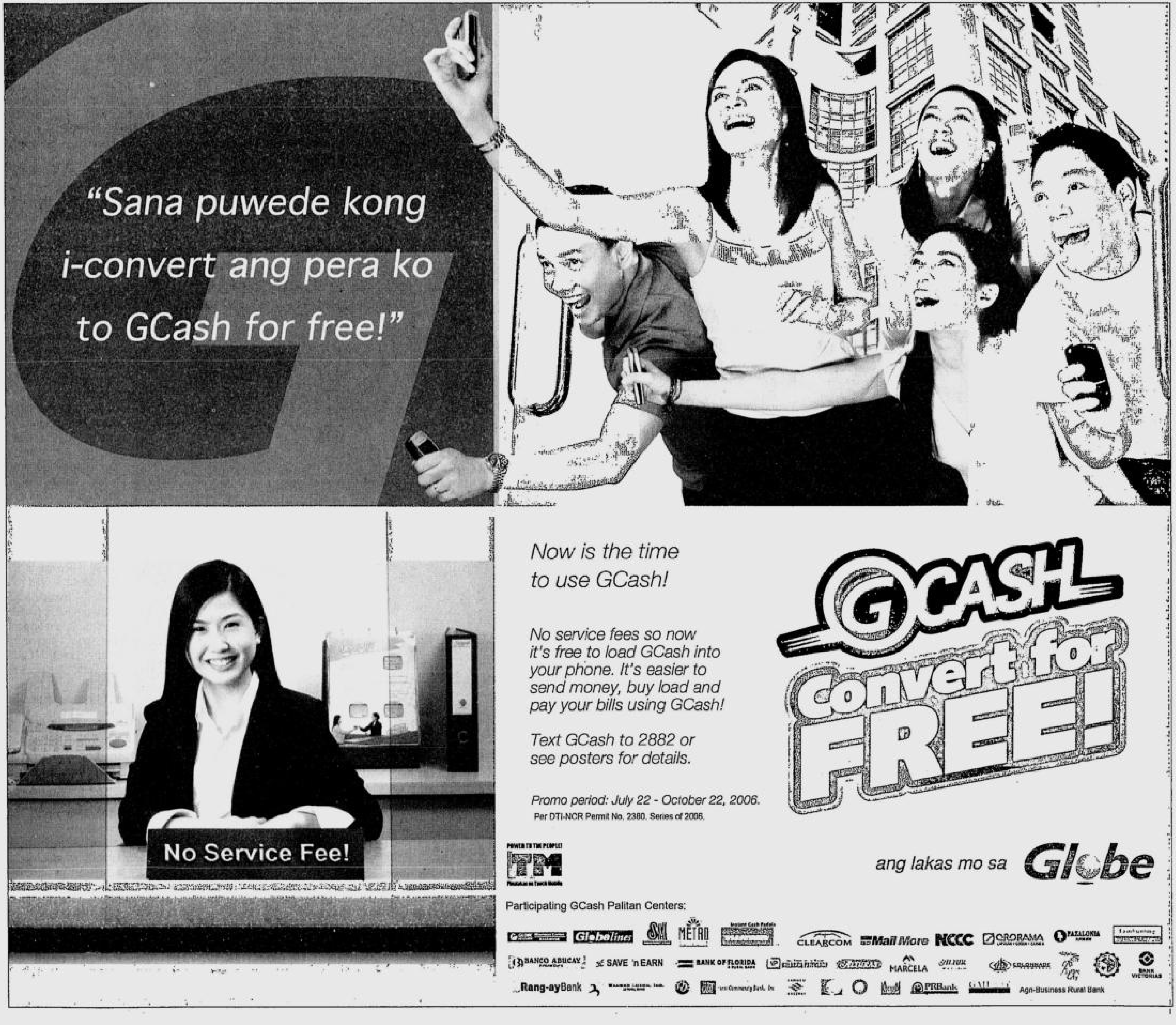
But, finding these "preordained" people from among The Cove's quirky tenants isn't as easy as, say, seeing dead people.

Employing a self-concocted fairy tale to tell his twist-free narrative, Hollywood's Master of Mood and Mystery takes a crack at humor and parody, and dispenses lessons about man's confounding search for purpose and meaning.

But, while stylishly refreshing and technically superior, Shyamalan's distended metaphorical foray into existentialism is, at best, amusing and uncharacteristically funny.

Unfortunately, it's also slow-moving and implausible. —As implausible as Vick Ran, the sensitive, "visionary" novelist with the writer's block Shyamalan

MAIDENS/ A3-2



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Nowhere to go but up for Jed Madela

By Noelani Torre

IT'S A SATURDAY NIGHT AND Greenbelt's Onstage, where singer Jed Madela is holding his concert, is slowly filling up with people. They come in quiet twos and threes—there are no shrieking hordes here—but, it doesn't take them long to occupy almost every seat in the 800-seater theater.

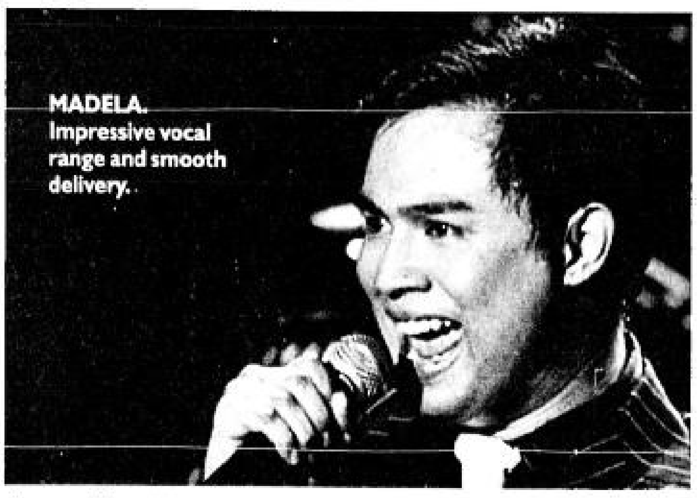
Recognition

It's a pretty impressive showing for a relative newcomer. Why, three years ago, you would have been hard-put to get a nod of recognition from your regular man-on-the-street when you mentioned Madela's name.

Despite having won several singing competitions like placing second in 2003's Voice of Asia International Song Festival and the release of a debut album soon after, the Ilonggo crooner's presence didn't quite register.

Gold medals

Things are definitely looking up for him these days, though. After being proclaimed Grand Champion Performer of the World in the 2005 World Championship of the Performing Arts and bagging half a dozen gold medals in such diverse categories as pop and gospel, Jed has become most sought-after.



MADELA. Impressive vocal range and smooth delivery.

It's not surprising, really. Madela has a voice that can wipe not only your floor, but the floors of your neighbors—and maybe the entire barangay's. It's the kind of talent that people from all walks of life can appreciate.

He's a good overall performer, as well, with a deft hand at charming audiences, and a laidback style that makes what must be really hard work seem effortless.

Riveting

The entire package is riveting enough to soothe the audience's displeasure at having to wait for more than half an hour for the performance to begin.

When Jed starts to sing, everything is forgiven—the long wait, the fairly odd opening number (involving Wagner and monks' robes, don't ask), the annoying stage lights.

When he starts off channeling Wagner, it's hard to believe that this liquid voice can actually reach the heights that it's more known for—but it does.

In "Joyful, Joyful," his voice just soars and soars (over and above the chaotic mix they saddled the poor song with). His range is truly impressive, and his delivery as smooth and controlled as though he's been singing for more years than he's actually got.

He's savvy, too, giving his repertoire enough variety—Sinatra classics, OPM numbers, sentimental favorites, and even a bit of rap—to appeal to everyone in the audience.

Duets

The guest performers—Gail Blanco, Karlene Bayot, and Jed's own sister Christine—hold their own in the duets, and Jed gives them space to shine.

The audience leaves the theater satisfied, indeed, and with the belief that, for Jed Madela, there's nowhere else to go but up!

The great performance that never was

By Behn Cervantes

I WAS ENROLLED IN Columbia University in 1965 for courses in Film and Theater. It was a great time to be involved in both art forms because, while the city "that never sleeps" was then deeply involved in underground films, theater critics also noted the impact of non-commercial off-Broadway productions.

Daring

The further away the productions were from the Great White Way, the more daring they became. Because those productions were cheap, more people could afford to watch them. And they certainly provided fodder for meaningful discussions.

I had two good friends, Ditas Rivera and Mila Donato, erstwhile *colegialas* who resided in well-maintained dorms. Ditas, a former student leader at St. Scholastica's College, was taking up music education, while Mila often organized cultural events that showcased Filipino culture.

Since we were all scholars of the East-West Center, our priority was to show the country off as best we could.

In class, Ditas prepared a lecture on Philippine music—its origins, development and various forms, before she would present a sample of the *kundiman*, which I was tasked to sing. Since I did more singing then, I readily agreed to help her out. Besides, I loved performing!

The affair was meticulously prepared by Ditas and Mila: The walls of the hall were decked with Filipiniana. There were oohs and aahhs from the impressed crowd that entered the hall. (I was in *a barong* that elicited admiration for its delicate *jusi* fabric.)

Friends

I vocalized properly and was ready to render a De Leon piece. I was not nervous at all, since I was used to singing in the homes of friends like Leonor Kilayco, Lily Dichupa and Yvonne Tayenco.

Leonor and Yvonne were then taking advanced courses at the Mannes School of Music. The former used to ask me to sing in a nursing home for senior citizens every Saturday—my first "professional" performances in New York. The only catch: I could only sing "feel-good" songs!

After I was introduced, I briskly took my place onstage amidst polite applause. But, as soon as Ditas did her *pasakalye* on the piano, the lights went off!

An immediate gasp came from the audience, then murmurs ensued. The building's maintenance crew attended to the problem immediately. It was a minor problem, we thought. But, the performer in me was still concerned about my musical number.

Electricity

Then, someone noted that there was also no electricity in the next building—and the next one, as well!

Not long after, someone formally announced what seemed incredible news: The *whole* of New York City had suffered a blackout! No one could believe that the greatest city in the world was in total darkness, and thousands were stuck in elevators, subways and other places dependent on electricity.

It was the Great Brownout of 1965! And I was not able to sing my *kundiman*. But, it remains my most memorable (non)performance—*ever!*

Maidens of mood, murder and mystery

From page A3-1

himself plays in the film.

Sure, man is characterized by a complex nature, but Shyamalan's eccentric characters seem like they're plucked straight from over-the-top Mexican telenovelas.

Collectively, they must figure out who does what to save the life of one white lady in distress—before the mystical portal to Story's parallel universe closes.

"White Lady"

D: Jeff Tan
S: Angelica Panganiban, Pauleen Luna, JC de Vera

Jeff Tan's *femme fatale* story tells a simpler tale. And the new director accomplishes what many self-indulgent filmmakers fail to achieve: He cooks up a horror story that capitalizes more on logical storytelling than atmosphere, gore and gimmickry.

The production's oft-repeated yarn about abuse and paranormal retribution is woven around a clear, tight narrative that hems its loose ends with relish and aplomb.

Voice major Pearl Legaspi (Pauleen Luna) catches the ire of Mimi (an over-the-top Iwa Moto), the campus queen bee, and her arrogant bevy of vixens when she hooks up with Robby Macuja (JC de Vera), the dreamy school heartthrob.

When people start dying, Pearl starts to uncover disturbing secrets about Robby and his friends—and about Cristina (Angelica Panganiban), Robby's former squeeze, who is said to have mysteriously dropped out of school and has since become a recluse.

But, the bodies continue to pile up, and everyone is unnerved—because each victim dies from the source of his/her phobia (Luis de la Madrid's "The Nun" treads almost the same thematic ground). And people are talking about a ghoulish White Lady stalking the campus—with scores to settle! In this suburban scholastic haven, Pearl later learns, nothing is what it seems.

The production may be predictable and not all that scary, but it is certainly more polished than most local horror movies. Tan puts a refreshing, cautionary spin on the familiar moral.

Moreover, Tan's visually accomplished film debut is well-told and meticulously crafted, and is further boosted by its appealing and promising young actors (Luna, De Vera, Jason Abalos).

On point of performance, Luna, Boots Anson Roa (in another impressive out-of-the-box portrayal) and the beautiful Panganiban (who shines despite limited screen time) are standouts.

But, a director can only do so much with a genre as limited and limiting as horror. So, we'd like to see how Tan's dynamic directorial style and attention to narrative detail will translate in a more realistic cinematic endeavor.

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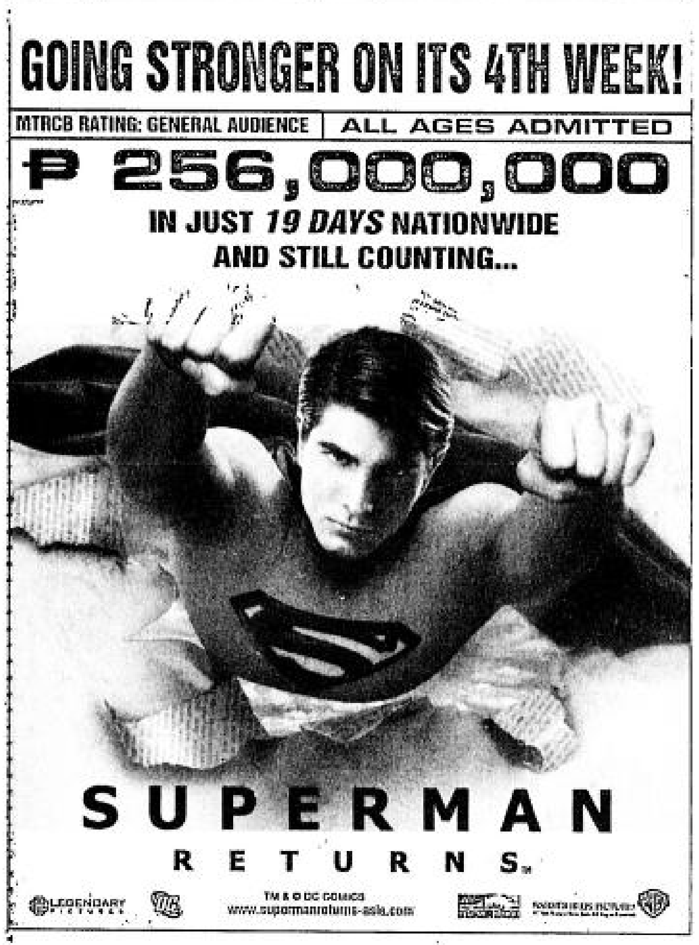

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Catch the stars of White Lady at the following malls:
JULY 22, ROBINSONS PAMPANGA, 4pm * JULY 23, SM SUCAT, 4pm
MTRCB RATING PG-13

MONTAGE

Faith and fun in Journeys of Faith tours and pilgrimages

VALENCIANO. Promo tour for "Relevance."

JOURNEYS of FAITH CATHOLIC PILGRIMage and Cruises has lined up nine "faith and fun" journeys for 2006. Tourists and devotees can take their pick:

Sept. 9-23, Incredible India and the Himalayas (Nepal and Tibet) with optional extension to the Taj Mahal in Agra, Khajuraho and Varanasi up to Sept. 28.

Sept. 16-30, Holy and Mystical Europe—Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, with Msgr. Crispin Bernarte and Fr. Joseph Visperas.

Sept. 16-Oct. 5, Enthralling Eastern Europe—Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania.

Oct. 7-21, Holy and Mystical Europe with Fr. Elmer Mangalinao, Fr. Mark Ancheta, and Fr. Ariel Musngi.

Oct. 16-29, Best of China.

Oct. 22-Nov. 4, Treasures of the Ancient World—Turkey and Greece with Fr. Renato Jose Lopez, SSL.

FAITH/ A3-4

Financial freedom through Sara Lee Direct Selling

From simple to fabulous lifestyles: Kay San Vicente (left) and Lydia Manio now enjoy financial freedom, thanks to Sara Lee Direct Selling.

Years ago, Kay San Vicente (Cabanatuan branch) and Lydia Manio (Shaw Blvd. branch) were leading simple, ordinary lives. Their income was just enough to pay the bills and enjoy life's pleasures once in a while. Because of this, both ladies yearned for financial freedom.

Little did they know that they would find the way to achieve this dream through Sara Lee Direct Selling. Lydia recalls, "I decided to sign up because Sara Lee has a wide range of excellent products." Adds Kay: "Their products are consumables so buyers will keep on ordering these items."

Now successful in their respective direct selling businesses, both have scored achievements, claiming their respective spots in Sara Lee's roster of top independent business managers (IBMs) for 2006. Kay, in particular, is a second-time beneficiary of the company's Vehicle Incentive Program (VIP). She owns four distribution centers in Nueva Ecija through which she earned her first P4 million in sales early this year. Likewise, Lydia is reaping the ample financial rewards and incentives from her Sara Lee Direct Selling network.

With their earnings, they have acquired properties, cars and get to travel to different countries. Indeed, they are now living a life of stability and excitement.

Aside from financial rewards, their careers brought out their innate leadership and mentoring abilities, which they use to motivate and inspire their dealers to achieve success.

"I used to dream of being financially secure and successful," Lydia gushes. "Whenever I travel, I still pinch myself to make sure I'm awake," quips Kay. "Until now, I still can't believe the wonderful things that are happening in my life."

Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc. is the authorized distributor of prestigious brands that include Playtex, Hanes, Champion, Wonderbra, Just My Size, Girls' Attitudes, Colour Collection, Beauty Touch, Ivana, Georgie On Ice, VS.Versus, Nutrimetics, and Zwitsal. Sara Lee Direct Selling Philippines, Inc is also known as Fuller Cosmetics in Latin America and Nutrimetics in many parts of the world. If you have questions, need additional information or wish to become a dealer, call 859-3000, or send an email to customer_relations@saraleedirectselling.ph. You can also send inquiries through fax number 867-2279. You may also get in touch through text at 0921-9643367 or 0915-9823471

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
MTRCB GP
12:30, 3:40, 6:50, 10:00

2 LADY IN THE WATER
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

3 R.V. RUNAWAY VACATION
MTRCB GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

4 NACHO LIBRE
MTRCB PG-13
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE: PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
2:10, 5:20, 8:30 MTRCB GP

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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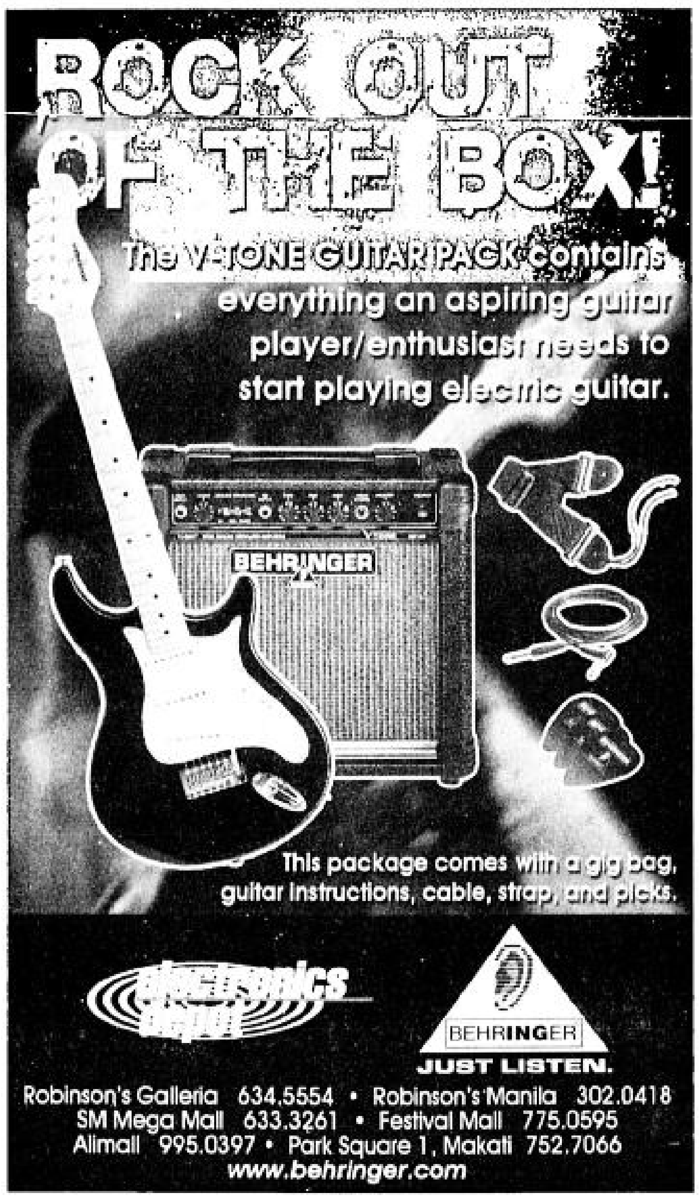

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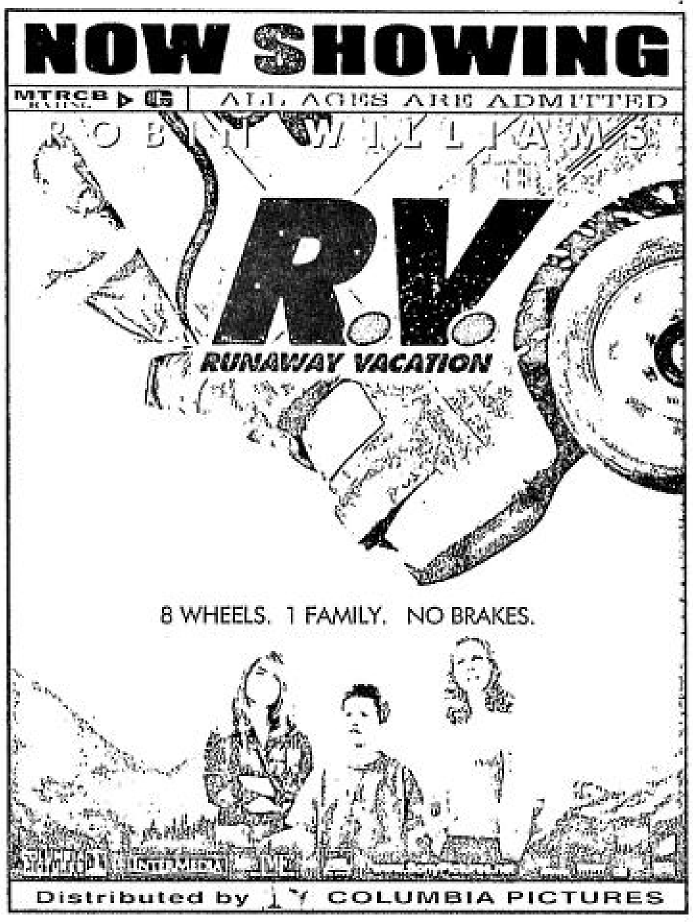

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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 WHITE LADY	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 NACHO LIBRE	3 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 LOVEWRECKED	5 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	6 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 LADY IN THE WATER	2 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX LADY IN THE WATER 1:40, 4:05, 6:30, 8:55, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST 2:05, 5:10, 8:15, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS 1:45, 4:50, 7:55, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN 12:45, 3:50, 6:55, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION		
	3 LADY IN THE WATER	4 SUPERMAN RETURNS	5 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 LADY IN THE WATER	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 NACHO LIBRE
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 PIRATES OF THE CARRIBEAN: DEAD MAN'S CHEST	2 WHITE LADY		
	3 RV: RUNAWAY VACATION	4 LADY IN THE WATER	5 SUPERMAN RETURNS	

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Market! Market! - 886 7519

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The Fab Ayala Malls welcome the Fab 5

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Guillen and Abaya to receive Ateneo's Tanglaw ng Lahi Award

By Nestor U. Torre

THE FILM COMMUNITY IS HAPpy to learn that acclaimed film directors Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya are this year's Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi awardees of the Ateneo de Manila University.

They will be honored by the trustees and president of the university at a special academic convocation on July 25 at the Rev. Henry Lee Irwin Theater at the Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus.

Recipients

Other recipients of the University's annual awards are Socorro C. Ramos (Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*), Dr. Conrado Dayrit (Lux-in-Domino Award), Elvira Leyes-Bautista (Parangal Lingkod Sambayanan), Dr. Raymundo S. Punongbayan (Government Service Award), Dr. Teofilo T. Bangayan (Ozanam Award), and Fr. Eliseo R. Mercado, OMI and Fr. Charlito Cerio Colendres (Bukas-Palad Award in memory of Fr. Manuel Peypoch, SJ).

Laurice and Marilou have strong links to the Ateneo. Laurice took up graduate studies in communications at the university, while Marilou has taught film subjects there for some 20 years now, training some of the best talents working in Philippine cinema today.

Insightful

Both film directors are deemed eminently worthy of the Ateneo's prized Gawad Tanglaw ng Lahi because their movies have been exceptional, insightful, entertaining and inspiring.

Some of their films have belied the local "superstition" that good movies don't make money because the general viewing public can't understand or relate to them.

Accessibility

Marilou's "Jose Rizal" and Laurice's "Tanging Yaman" have been both critically acclaimed and popular hits, encouraging other committed filmmakers to also try to combine substance with accessibility.

Currently, Laurice is the chairperson of the ongoing 2006 Cinemalaya alternative film festival at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

For her part, Marilou has put up a hands-on film school, the Asia-Pacific Film Institute, that has attracted students not only from the Philippines, but also from Asia and the United States.

Despite their busy schedule as film industry leaders, the country's most acclaimed female directors are also preparing to shoot their next movie productions, continuing to set high filmmaking standards, and helping energize the revival of the Filipino movie industry.

Special honor

They have won many awards in the past, but the Ateneo's Tanglaw ng Lahi is a special honor, because it expresses appreciation, not for an individual production, but for each director's respective body of work.

And the Filipino film community is similarly honored, because two of its finest talents have been chosen among other local artists and media persons for their illuminating and inspiring service to the nation.

GUILLEN AND ABAYA. Help energize the revival of the Filipino movie industry.

Modern-day hero

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

RECENTLY, ABS-CBN AWARDED Mrs. Soledad Donato-Katy the top Gawad Geny Lopez II Bayaning Pilipino Award with no less than Sharon Cuneta introducing her.

A person's status in life is no hindrance to his capacity to help others. Soledad lives by this maxim. A mother of seven, she spent a considerable portion of her life helping the indigenous people of Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija.

Devoted catechist

A respected community organizer, devoted catechist and *barangay* health worker, *Manang* Sol never ceases to look for opportunities to help.

Because of her passion, she grabs every chance she gets to attend seminars on agrarian reform and livelihood programs.

MANANG SOL. Never ceases to look for opportunities to help.

Equipped with her knowledge in alternative medicine, *Manang* Sol continues to visit far-flung areas to aid those who are sick.

She serves as a link between indigenous people and the institutions (such as the Department of Agrarian Reform, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Church) that help them.

Knowledge

She is not ashamed of the fact that she only finished elementary school. She's aware that her knowledge goes beyond what any university can impart.

Manang Sol inspires people to make the best out of their lives, and continues to share her love and concern for her *kababayan*.

E-mail mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767.

Faith and fun in Journeys. . .

From page A3-3

Oct. 29-Nov. 6, Seven Nights, Greece and Turkey Cruise (Italy, Greece, Turkey, Croatia).

Oct. 29-Nov. 11, Following the Gospel Trail—Jordan, Israel and Egypt with Fr. Lopez and Fr. Matt Claro Garcia.

Nov. 5-16, Jordan and Ancient Egypt.

Call Arlina or Rona Onglao at (632) 929-0144, (63) 917 814-8127, fax (632) 426-7295, or email joinjourneys@gmail.com.

'Miss Universe'

Star World's live coverage of the 2006 Miss Universe beauty, pageant starts at 9 a.m. on July 24, with primetime telecast at 9 p.m., and replays at 11 a.m. on July 25 and 1 p.m. on July 29.

Parokya ni Edgar

The Winston Wings Tour takes the Parokya ni Edgar band to 6Underground at 15C Palanca st., Legaspi Village Makati tonight. Opening act is The Pin-up Girls.

On Aug. 4, Sandwich and Sugarfree perform at the Evo Music venue, Malolos, Bulacan.

Gary V

Gary Velenciano promotes his "Relevance" album at SM Southmall at 4 p.m. today. On July 29, he will be at SM Bicutan.

Banares brothers

EJ and Brendon Banares are promoting their album, "Aking Inay," today at Robinsons Place Novaliches, July 28 at SM Bicutan, July 29 at Ever Gotesco Manila and July 30 at Ever Commonwealth.

HUNTER AND WILLIAMS. Topbill Mark Mylod's wacky comedy.

Kamikazee

The Kamikazee band will make a mall appearance at SM Manila at 5 p.m. today. The band will perform cuts from its "Maharot" album.

'The Big White'

The Robin Williams starrer, "The Big White," is now out on VCD. Williams plays a travel agent in Alaska who thinks his financial troubles can be solved when he finds a frozen body in a dumpster. Money, murder and mayhem are the names of the game in this "white" comedy set in the great outdoors. Holly Hunter co-stars and Mark Mylod directs.

'GamePlan'

"GamePlan" features at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow on Studio 23 are on the Haro Cup (a dirt bike challnege on BMX and Mountain bikes), Monofin Swimming, and China's best table tennis player.

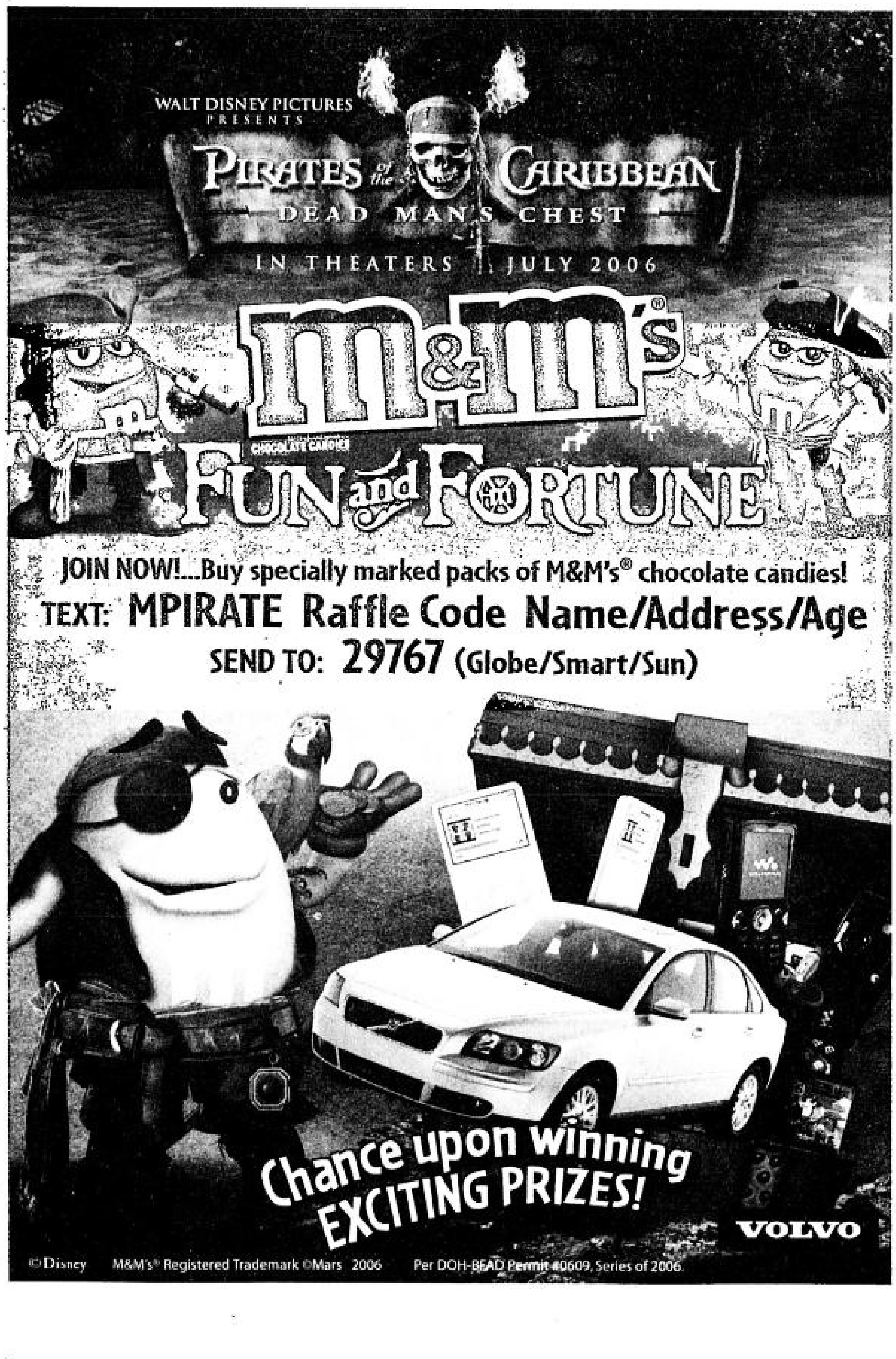
'Probe'

At 11 p.m. on July 26 on ABS-CBN, "Probe" focuses on the effects of domestic labor on children, a young domestic worker and her harrowing experiences, and the Tinalak dreamweavers of Lake Sebu in South Cotabato.

Movies on TV

On HBO, July 22 at 9 p.m., "House of Wax." July 23 at 5 p.m., "Mad Dog and Glory." July 24 at 11:05 p.m., "Defending Your Life." July 25 at 4:15 p.m., "Wag the Dog." July 26 at 10:35 p.m., "JFK." July 27 at 9 p.m., "Roxanne." July 28 at 3 p.m., "The Dark Crystal."

On Cinemax, July 22 at 8:45 p.m., "The Last Samurai." July 23 at 9 p.m., "Gothika." July 24 at 6:30 p.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." July 25 at 7:55 a.m., "Born Yesterday." July 26 at 4:20 p.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." July 27 at 4:15 p.m., "Boing Boing." July 28 at 5:45 p.m., "The Outlaw Josey Wales."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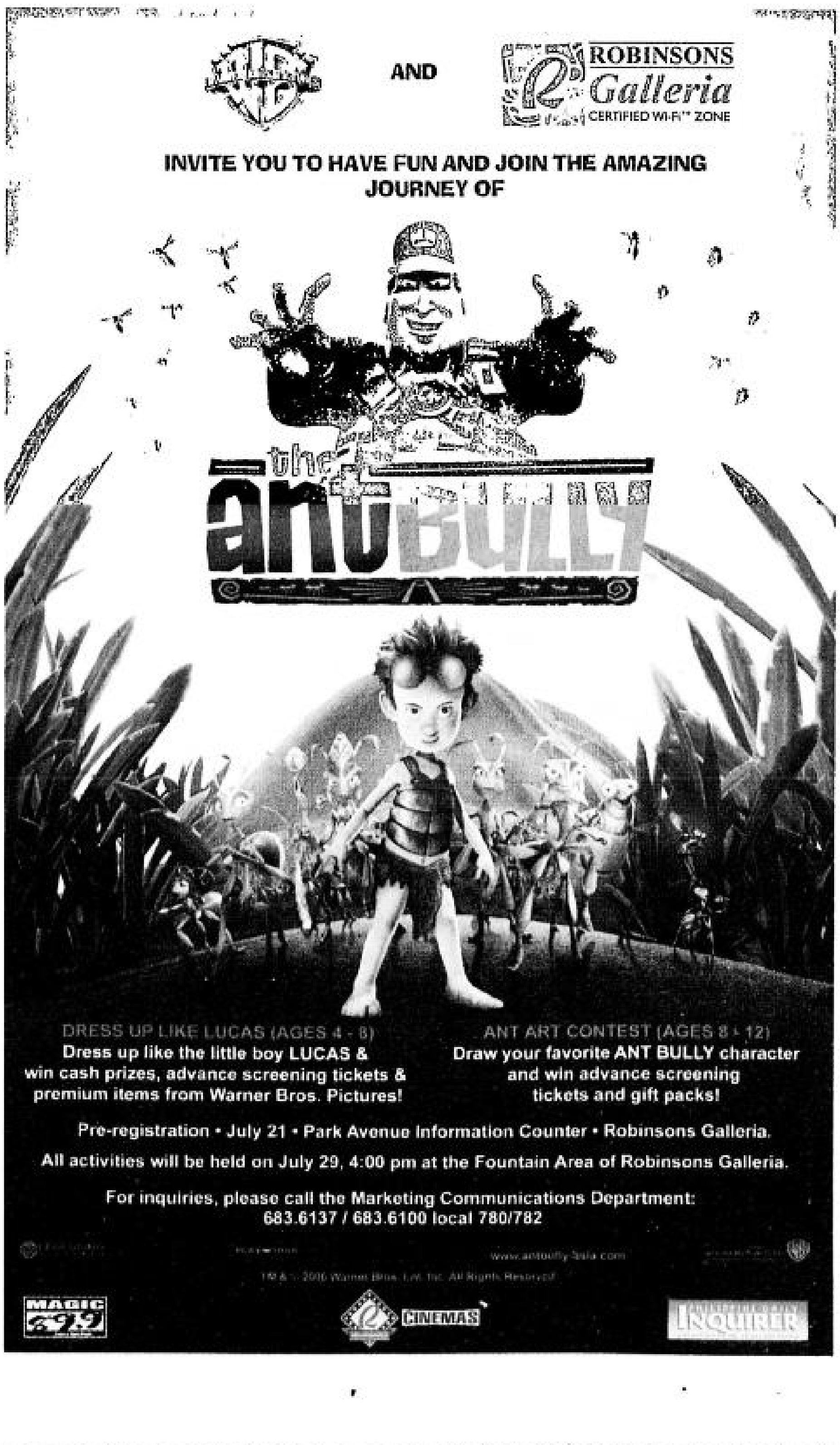
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A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

DMCI, Metro Pacific team up for Maynilad

New joint venture eyes 84% stake in water utility

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CONSTRUCTION GIANT DMCI HOLDINGS INC. IS TEAMing up with Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd. in bidding on the 84-percent stake held by the government in beleaguered utility Maynilad Water Services Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday, DMCI said it was jointly bidding for the Maynilad stake with Metro Pacific Investment Corp. (MPIC), a unit of First Pacific.

The winner of the public bidding will get the right to subscribe to an 84-percent equity in Maynilad held by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS).

DMCI chief finance officer Herbert Consunji said in the disclosure that the DMCI-MPIC consortium sent a letter of interest and all other relevant documents to the MWSS yesterday morning.

The DMCI-MPIC consortium plans to set up a separate company for its proposed bid. It will be owned equally or 50 percent each by the consortium members.

Metro Pacific Corp., the local arm of First Pacific, is reorganizing itself into MPIC, a company that will invest in infrastructure and power-related sectors.

DMCI, one of the country's biggest construction companies, also owns the country's largest coal mine, Semirara Mining Corp.

Meantime, MPC's reorganization seeks to raise P2.7 billion in new capital for investments in infrastructure and power-related projects.

Not to be outdone, a consortium led by Manila Water Co. of the Ayalas also submitted documents as part of bid prequalification requirements yesterday, industry sources said.

The consortium consists of a foreign partner, conglomerate Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan and investment firm BPI Capital, sources said.

DMCI/ B2

Teves pushes liberal invest policies

TEVES

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves has reiterated calls to amend the Constitution, saying its restrictive economic provisions would make it virtually impossible for the country to achieve the 7- to 9-percent growth needed to allow economic gains to trickle down to the poor.

Economic managers have said that although previous growth rates within the 5-percent level were respectable, the country needed its gross domestic product to grow at least 7 percent for the poor to enjoy the benefits of an economic expansion. At current growth rates, only the high-income groups were reaping the benefits, he said.

The finance chief said that to achieve the desired growth levels, the country's economic environment should be made more attractive for foreign investors through the liberalization of the economic provisions of the Constitution. This would entail allowing foreign ownership and free entry of foreign businesses into the country.

"I recall when I was still a member of Congress, I was a bit frustrated that we can only handle a few economic provisions because precisely the economic provisions that we wanted discussed and debated in Congress could not be done because they were

TEVES/ B2

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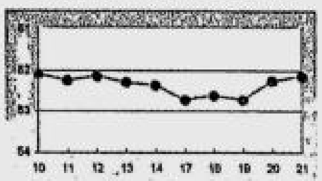
INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JULY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.165 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 21, 2006

¥ 116.84 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., July 21, 2006

GOLD: **$639.40-639.90**

per ounce Hong Kong, July 20, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.27 percent lower yesterday as a weaker Wall Street and a rise in oil prices prompted investors to take quick profits on the sharp gains made Thursday, dealers said.

Investors are also cautious about taking decisive positions before President Macapagal-Arroyo's annual address to Congress

SHARES/ B2

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TOYOTA moving forward

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.3	5.3	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	31.5	31	31.5	401,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51	52	51	51.5	356,300
China Banking Corp.	845	845	845	845	10
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	260,000
Equitable PCI Bank, Inc.	75	77.5	75	77.5	32,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	35.5	36	35	36	151,500
Philippine National Bank	34.5	34.5	34	34	10,200
Phil. Savings Bank	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	18	18	18	18	14,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	44	44	44	44	2,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.76	1.76	457,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30	30.5	29	30.5	11,400
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	214	214	214	214	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1980	1980	1980	1980	240
Ivantage Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	615,000
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	101,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp	44.5	44.5	44.5	44.5	1,400
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	15	80,400
Manila Electric Co. B	24	24	24	24	404,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.6	7.6	6,596,000
Petron Corp.	4	4.05	4	4	1,750,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp	0.22	0.27	0.22	0.27	1,830,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	120,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	20,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.4	42,000
Cen Azucar de Tarlac	3	3	3	3	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23.25	23	23	82,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	31.5	32	31	32	120,100
Pancake House Inc.	4.65	4.65	4.65	4.65	40,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.2	1,869,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	66	65.5	66	37,200
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	71	71.5	52,500
Universal Robina Corp	19	19	18.75	19	407,300
Vitarich Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.2	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,610,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	717,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	227,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	20,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIAL					
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.11	0.09	0.1	110,500,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	8,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.008	0.007	0.0075	177,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	28,000,000
Ayala Corp.	400	402.5	397.5	400	116,610
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	1,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	795,000
APC Group, Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	500,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	500,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	3,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.7	0.71	0.7	0.71	110,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	38,700
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.05	4.1	4.05	4.1	2,684,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.9	848,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	34,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	5,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.185	0.16	0.18	5,030,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	7,430,000
SM Investments Corp.	221	222	220	221	60,350
South China Resources Inc	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	190,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co	0.05	0.0575	0.05	0.055	21,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.5	1,214,800
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	2,699,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.27	7,990,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.16	2.22	2.16	2.18	589,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.38	1.48	1.34	1.34	16,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.225	0.18	0.22	885,950,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.45	0.45	5,930,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	30,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	3,783,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.007	0.006	0.0065	244,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	40,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	50,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	710,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.4	1.42	8,283,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	3,150,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.75	276,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	2,410,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	1,065,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	140,000
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16	16	16	16	2,300
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	175,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	719,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	935	955	935	955	111,690
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	788,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1895	1920	1885	1885	127,990
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.175	440,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.012	1,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.049	0.049	0.049	1,000,000
Music Semiconductors Corp	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	135,000
Philweb Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	34,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	424,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	14	14	14	14	32,500
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	70,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.36	1.42	1.34	1.38	17,274,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	121,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.19	0.19	2,140,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	33,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	2,000
iPeople Inc	3	3.05	3	3	21,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.12	2.14	2.12	2.12	111,000
Paxys Inc.	11	11.25	11	11.25	388,000
Prime Gaming Phils. Inc.	35	35	35	35	90,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.8	3.9	3.65	3.75	2,632,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.75	3.9	3.65	3.7	1,412,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	234,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	264,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	19,280,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	20,670,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	24,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	60,100,000
Omico Corp.	0.011	0.012	0.01	.011 4,	551,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	4	4	3.9	3.95	3,214,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	4	4	3.9	4	2,115,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	27	26.5	27	6,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	300,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	80,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	19,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	2,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.24	236,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.24	1.26	1.22	1.22	519,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.25	190,900

CURRENCIES

July 22, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.791202	1.000000	52.3830
Japan	Yen	0.006770	0.008556	0.4482
United Kingdom	Pound	1.462537	1.848500	96.8300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101756	0.128609	6.7369
Switzerland	Franc	0.636270	0.804182	42.1255
Canada	Dollar	0.698509	0.882846	46.2461
Singapore	Dollar	0.498835	0.630477	33.0263
Australia	Dollar	0.594576	0.751484	39.3650
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.098846	2.652731	138.9580
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210970	0.266645	13.9677
Brunei	Dollar	0.497267	0.628496	32.9225
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020838	0.026337	1.3796
UAE	Dirham	0.215416	0.272264	14.2620
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.263900	66.2069
Brazil	Real	0.362023	0.457561	23.9684
Denmark	Kroner	0.134036	0.169408	8.8741
India	Rupee	0.016949	0.021422	1.1221
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215117	0.271887	14.2423
Mexico	New Peso	0.072721	0.091912	4.8146
New Zealand	Dollar	0.492930	0.623014	32.6353
South Africa	Rand	0.114088	0.144196	7.5534
Korea	Won	0.000832	0.001051	0.0551
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024191	0.030575	1.6016

SEC grants Pacific Plans license to sell

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) has approved the application of embattled Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI) to sell pre-need plans despite stiff opposition from a group of plan holders.

In an order issued yesterday, the SEC said it has approved the renewal of PPI's 2006 dealer's license, which is good for another year. The SEC has yet to issue an official certificate granting the dealer's license to PPI.

In the SEC resolution, PPI will be allowed to sell fixed-value education plans, memorial plans and pension plans.

PPI has more than 400,000 plan holders.

"It is for the best interest of the public to give the company a chance to operate in line with the court's ruling approving the company's rehabilitation plan," the SEC said.

In 1992, PPI stopped selling traditional or open-ended education plans, a form of education plan that promised to pay tuition for a minimum investment amount regardless of the current rates when the plan was to be used.

Today, the payments of these plans are under the supervision of the rehabilitation receiver under the alternative rehabilitation plan approved by Branch 61 of the Makati Regional Trial Court.

PPI reported that its paid-up capital as of Dec. 31 last year amounted to P585.7 million from retained earnigs of P375.6 million and capital stock of P210 million.

The SEC said that based on this, the company has met the minimum paid-up capital of P100 million needed for a pre-need company to sell three types of plans. PPI also reported that its total trust fund—or the pool of assets that is used to pay obligations to plan holders—stood at P13.15 billion as of Dec. 31. Actuarial reserve liabilities—or a snapshot of the firm's future obligations to plan holders—stood at P11.8 billion, which indicated that PPI had excess deposits in its trust fund worth P1.35 billion during the period covered.

Also in line with the Makati court's order approving PPI's rehabilitation, the SEC allowed the transfer of unsold fixed value education and pension plans of PPI's former subsidiary Lifetime Plans Inc. back to PPI.

The transfer was allowed after LPI was dissolved in May 2005 with the cancellation of its certificate of incorporation due to its inability to show it had the required assets to operate, the SEC said earlier.

In a statement yesterday, PPI said it welcomed the SEC's decision. PPI president Alfredo J. Non said the "SEC's move would enable the company to serve better its more than 400,000 fixed-plan holders in the areas of education, pension and memorial plans."

Teves pushes ...

From page B1

enshrined in our 1987 Constitution," Teves said in a forum organized by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

He said another Charter amendment necessary for a more vibrant economy was the shift from presidential to parliamentary system, which would allow a unicameral manner of legislation. He said that the current bicameral system was a disadvantage especially when debates between the two chambers of Congress delay the passage of vital economic bills.

He cited the failure of Congress to pass the proposed P1.053-trillion national budget for 2006.

"Constantly, our spending on critical infrastructure and social services is hampered, which if not corrected by a supplemental budget, would likely bring about a slower economic growth than what we envision," he said.

Economic managers said they regretted the failure of the legislature to approve the 2006 national budget, which they said was necessary to implement plans of economic pump-priming particularly through higher infrastructure spending.

The failure of Congress to pass the proposed 2006 budget was a result of the deadlock between the Lower House and the Senate. While the House wanted the P1.053-trillion budget intact, the Senate wanted it cut by removing certain infrastructure-related programs.

Teves said the executive branch would merely resort to asking Congress for a supplemental budget when it resumes session next week to allow more spending flexibility despite the need to operate on a reenacted 2005 budget.

DMCI, Metro ...

From page B1

Ayala's Manila Water covers the east zone, delivering water to Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig, Pateros, San Juan, Taguig, Makati and parts of Quezon City and Manila.

It also services the towns of Angono, Antipolo, Baras, Binangonan, Cainta, Cardona, Jala-Jala, Morong, Pililla, Rodriguez and San Mateo.

The government regained ownership of Maynilad last year after Lopez-led Benpres Holdings Corp. gave up its water distribution business due to mounting losses.

Shares close lower

From page B1

Monday given recent political tensions, they said.

The composite index lost 6.15 points at 2,241.25 after trading between 2,231.22 and 2,247.40. Volume was 6.6 billion shares worth P951.27 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 1.23 points to 1,396.94.

Losers led gainers 43 to 39, with 56 stocks unchanged.

Online broker 2TradeAsia.com said crude oil's climb back to $74 a barrel due to the conflict in the Middle East, capped active buying that had emerged on Thursday.

"Investors took profits following (Thursday's) very strong rise. It goes to show that the market is still not on a solid footing," said James Lago of Westlink Global Equities. *AFP*

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PUBLIC AUCTION

JULY 27, 2006 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • CARIG PLAZA HOTEL, Daang Maharlika Hway, Santiago City, Isabela

ISABELA

ANGADANAN

LOT 1 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 768.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 374.00 sqm.
Lot 2 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 685,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 6,019.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 90.00 sqm.
Lot 1405, Canangan
Min Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 3 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 25,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-C Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price : 320,000.00

LOT 4 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 40,000.00 sqm.
Lot E-3-B Villa Domingo
Min Bid Price 450,000.00

AURORA

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Cor. Prov'l. Rd. & Cacal Sts., Bagon Lnis, Sta Rita
Min Bid Price 455,000.00

BUGALLON NORTE

LOT 6 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,327.00 sqm.
Lot 4 Casugo St., Ramon
Min Bid Price 285,000.00

CABAGAN

LOT 7 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,100.00 sqm.
Lot 2219-A, Barrio Of Cubag
Min Bid Price 74,000.00

CAUAYAN

LOT 8 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 200.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 72.00 sqm.
Lot 1-J-2-B Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 485,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 133.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 125,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 328.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-6-C Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 551,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 382.00 sqm.
Lot 19, Sillawit,
Min Bid Price : 87,000.00

LOT 12 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 450.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 420.00 sqm.
Lot 20-E-6-E-1 Poblacion
Min Bid Price : 8,406,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 260.00 sqm.
Lot 1-A-4-A-4-E-G-B-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 423,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2000.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-E, Lot B-5-F-3-S-5,Nat'L Road, Prenza
Min Bid Price : 6,843,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,497.00
WITHDRAWN
(Formerly Minante)
Min Bid Price : 2,246,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,629.00 sqm.
Lot B-5-B-1-C Cabaruan
Min Bid Price : 285,000.00

LOT 17 - VACANT
Lot Area: 354.00 sqm.
Lot 44 Centro
Min Bid Price : 73,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT
Lot Area: 315.00 sqm.
Lot 3-H-1 Eufronia Ave., Prenza
Min Bid Price : 524,000.00

DELFIN ALBANO

LOT 19 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 223.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 77.00 sqm.
Lot 599-B Along Provincial Rd., San Jose
Min Bid Price : 300,000.00

LOT 20 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,105.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Rizal
Min Bid Price : 282,000.00

LOT 21 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,920.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 210.00 sqm.
Lot 600-A & 600-B Along Provincial Road, San Jose
Min Bid Price : 1,621,000.00

ECHAGUE

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 13, E.M. Pinzon Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00
WITHDRAWN
Subd., San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00
WITHDRAWN
San Fabian
Min Bid Price : 240,000.00

LOT 26 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 396.00
WITHDRAWN
San
Echague
Min Bid Price : 412,000.00

FRIAR LANDS ESTATE

LOT 27 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 640.00 sqm.
Lot 424-C, Friar Lands Estate
Min Bid Price 164,000.00

ILAGAN

LOT 28 - VACANT
Lot Area: 308.00 sqm.
Lot 3-A, Blk 3 Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 233.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 191.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 7 P. Apostol St., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 458,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 503.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 102.00 sqm.
Lot 7139-A Alinguigan 2nd
Min Bid Price : 478,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 224+250=474 sqm.
Floor Area: 88.00 sqm.
Lot 3& 4, Blk 30 Rubia St., Greenheights Subd., Brgy. Alibagu
Min Bid Price : 699,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 123.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 237.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2 Capitol Ave., Calamagui 2nd
Min Bid Price : 1,500,000.00

MALLIG

LOT 33 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,916.00 sqm.
Lot 1031-A-1-D Nat'L Road, Centro 1
Min Bid Price : 1,010,000.00

LOT 34 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 752.00 sqm.
Lot 3903, San Jose Norte
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

QUEZON

LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 400.00 sqm.
Lot 2686-C, Abut
Min Bid Price : 70,000.00

ROXAS

LOT 36 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 5,070.00 sqm.
Lo T5797-B, Solero Nuesa
Min Bid Price : 416,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Site Bantug
Min Bid Price : 218,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Bantug
Min Bid Price : 215,000.00

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
WITHDRAWN
Subd. Bantug
Min Bid Price 140,000.00

SAN AGUSTIN

LOT 40 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,826.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 119.00 sqm.
Lot 2-A & Lot 2-B-2 Along Provincial Road, Masaya Sur
Min Bid Price : 620,000.00

SAN ISIDRO

LOT 41 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 29 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 1,000.00 sqm.
Lot 5 Victoria (Now Dona Paulina)
Min Bid Price : 128,000.00

SAN MANUEL

LOT 43 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 20,000.00 sqm.
Lot 3342-B, Brgy. Eden
Min Bid Price : 385,000.00

LOT 44 - AGRILAND
Lot Area: 324.00 sqm.
Lot 7,Blk 4 Dist 3
Min Bid Price : 165,000.00

LOT 45 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 178.00 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price : 76,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 27 Blk 2, Dist. 3
Min Bid Price : 105,000.00

SAN MATEO

LOT 47 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 290.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 56.00 sqm.
Lot 5455-B National Road, Marasat Pequeño
Min Bid Price 555,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 48 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,349.00 sqm.
Lot 482-F-4, Mabini
Min Bid Price : 1,890,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 309.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-A Palul
Min Bid Price : 360,000.00

LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 300.00 sqm.
Lot 752-E-6-B Palul
Min Bid Price 360,000.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 51 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,084.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 257 District 1
Min Bid Price 495,000.00

TUMAUINI

LOT 52 - LOT W/ IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,057.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 202.00 sqm.
Lot 1545 Nat'L Rd. Barrio Lingaling
Min Bid Price : 2,700,000.00

LOT 53 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 249.00 sqm.
Lot 1850-B, Pascaran, District II
Min Bid Price : 101,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT
Lot Area: 1,968.00 sqm.
Lot 2663 Nat'L Rd. Brgy. Lanna
Min Bid Price 476,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT
Lot Area: 222.00 sqm.
Lot 2412-C San Pedro
Min Bid Price : 114,000.00

ADDITIONAL PROPERTIES

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area 2,263.00
WITHDRAWN
Rd., Brgy.Kalabaza, Aurora,
Min Bid Price : 1,535,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,102.50 sqm.
Lot 1-A Brgy. San Ramon, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 365,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 319.75 sqm.
Lot 3508-H, Provincial Rd.,Ballesteros, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 155,000.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 275.00 sqm.
Lot 2929-A.Prov'L Rd., Sta. Rosa, Aurora
Min Bid Price : 785,000.00

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 346.66 sqm.
Floor Area: 207.00 sqm.
Lot 20234-C, Caliguan, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 540,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 70,044.00 sqm.
Lot 4479 Brgy. Rd Raniag, Burgos
Min Bid Price : 370,000.00

LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,643.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 148.00 sqm.
Lot 166-C, Brgy Muñoz East,Roxas,
Min Bid Price : 675,000.00

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 1,032.00
WITHDRAWN
Blk 5 Nat'L. Rd., Brgy. Bantug (Formerly Vira), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 4,890,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 9,030.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 179.00 sqm.
Lot 3886-A,B,D &F, Provincial Rd., Basilio, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 2,315,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 240.00 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 11, Vira(Now Bantug), Roxas
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
Lot Area: 376.00
WITHDRAWN
Vira, Roxas
Min Bid Price : 895,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,163.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 76.00 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Brgy. Cabantan, San Manuel
Min Bid Price : 1,085,000.00

LOT 68 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-H, Calaocan(Now Brgy 1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 69 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 451.00 sqm.
Lot 11039-G, Calaocan(Now Brgy 1),San Mateo
Min Bid Price : 1,805,000.00

LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
Lot Area: 2,451.00 sqm.
Floor Area: 160.00 sqm.
Lots 4-K & 4-L Brgy. Rd. Cabantan, San Miguel
Min Bid Price : 835,000.00

CAUAYAN CITY

LOT71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 6,365.00 sqm.
Lot 1-B,Tagaran
Min Bid Price : 1,571,250.00

LOT72 - VACANT LOT
LA: 500.00 sqm.
Lot A-3, San Fermin
Min Bid Price 46,000.00

SANTIAGO CITY

LOT73 - LOT W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT74 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 15,Blk 3,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT75 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 1,Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT76 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT77 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT78 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT79 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT80 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 4,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 138,000.00

LOT81 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT82 - VACANT LOT
LA: 167.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT83 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 5,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT84 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT85 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT86 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 29, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT87 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 30, Blk 6,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT88 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT89 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT90 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 3, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT91 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 7,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT92 - VACANT LOT
LA: 224.00 sqm.
Lot 5, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT93 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 7, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT94 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168.00 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 8,Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 130,000.00

LOT95 - VACANT LOT
LA: 215.00 sqm.
Lot 12, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 170,000.00

LOT96 - VACANT LOT
LA: 184.00 sqm.
Lot 13, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 145,000.00

LOT97 - VACANT LOT
LA: 180.00 sqm.
Lot 14, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 142,000.00

LOT98 - VACANT LOT
LA: 175.00 sqm.
Lot 15, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT99 - VACANT LOT
LA: 172.00 sqm.
Lot 16, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT100 - VACANT LOT
LA: 219.00 sqm.
Lot 17, Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 175,000.00

LOT101 - VACANT LOT
LA: 186.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 10 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 145,000.00

LOT102 - VACANT LOT
LA: 174.00 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 11 Villa Felomina Executive Homes, San Andres
Min Bid Price : 135,000.00

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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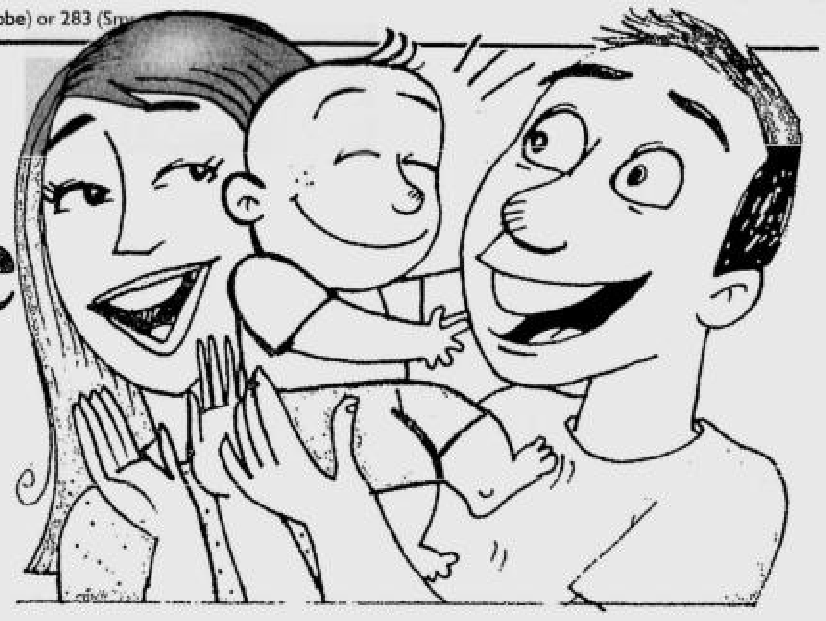
Kids with rare diseases now have fighting chance



By Charles E. Buban

NICKY WAS BORN healthy so her parents did not have any reason to suspect anything. But a few months later, he started vomiting, became dehydrated and lethargic.

Nicky died on his fifth month, just a few weeks after he was finally diagnosed with methylmalonic acidemia (MMA), an inherited disorder in which the body is unable to process certain proteins and fats (lipids) properly.

Joshua and Jillian, two other children documented to have MMA in the Philippines, are much more fortunate since their condition was diagnosed in time and both were able to receive the special medical formula required to manage their condition.

But their luck may change any moment considering that the hard-to-find formula already costs P3,200 a can (each would consume three to four cans a month) and their parents could barely afford it.

Orphan diseases

Nicky, Joshua and Jillian are among the children afflicted with "orphan diseases," a term that is defined as any disease which has not been "adopted" by the pharmaceutical industry because it provides little financial incentive for the private sector to make and market new medications to treat or prevent it.

As a result, these children are often left to fend for themselves and compelled to live a life that is deprived, desperate and oftentimes short.

"The term orphan disease captures well the loneliness many of these children, their families and researchers of these rare disorders face. However, I believe no disease is too rare or no field is too small to be worthy of study and support," Cynthia Magdaraog says.

With the support of several friends and in coordination with several organizations, Magdaraog formally launched last month the Philippine Society for Orphan Disorders Inc. (www.psod.org.ph), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the identification, treatment and cure of orphan diseases in the hope of making a difference in the lives of afflicted children.

National priority

The PSOD hopes that the research for orphan diseases as well as support for those afflicted be included among the country's priorities.

Magdaraog explains that since the majority of Filipinos who suffer from orphan diseases belong to the financially challenged segment, they won't have enough resources to properly diagnose and manage their condition.

And because of such rarity, their conditions may go undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for longer periods than better-understood diseases. Also, the small number of patients involved means there are few financial incentives for private companies (mostly pharmaceutical firms) to engage in research to combat them.

"In the Philippines there are just over a hundred documented cases of children with orphan diseases. Some like 11-month-old Xyrelle, who has Maple Syrup Urine Disease (a disorder in the body's ability to use three of the essential amino acids in protein), need to be fed with a special formula that at the moment, only pharmaceutical company Mead Johnson makes," Magdaraog reports.

At the moment, a crucial challenge for PSOD is how to coordinate the procurement and importation of these medications from abroad.

Dream realized

For Magdaraog, the launch of the PSOD is a realization of her dream for her 28-year-old son Dickoy who is incapacitated from a rare disease.

"My son Dickoy has been battling Pompe's disease for over 18 years now. (The disease) is a rare genetic disorder causing progressive weakness of respiratory muscles in the trunk, diaphragm and lower limbs, as well as exercise intolerance," she says.

Now confined to a wheelchair, aided by a breathing machine, Dickoy depends on his brother to perform simple tasks. He still considers himself lucky as he was able to finish his course in Industrial Design and was even able to set up a small (web design) business.

"I was fortunate enough that my family has some resources that allowed us to explore possibilities. But not all people who are suffering from orphan diseases are as lucky as I am. I hope that through this new organization that my mother helped establish, people would be more enlightened and perhaps be convinced to share their resources and talent to give us a fighting chance," Dickoy stresses.

Orphan diseases fast facts

HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY FOR ORPHAN DISORDERS Inc. intends to have a law passed patterned after the United States Orphan Drug Act of 1983, which offered tax incentives on clinical trials and seven years of marketing exclusivity for drugs developed for conditions that occur only rarely in the US. Since it was passed, more than 200 orphan drugs have been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration and are on the market.

The European Union, Japan, Australia and Taiwan have each passed a legislation similar to the US law.

Magdaraog reports that since many of these orphan diseases are genetic in nature, the Institute of Human Genetics of the University of the Philippines Manila's National Institutes of Health and the Genetics Clinics of the Philippine General Hospital's Department of Pediatrics are at the forefront of identifying if an individual is afflicted with an orphan disease.

In the past 12 years, the two agencies have identified more than 50 cases of rare diseases in country.

Preparing for earthquakes in a hospital setting

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

EXPERTS SAY WE'RE DUE FOR A BIG killer quake, just like what happened in Indonesia two months ago, which killed close to 5,000 people. It's not reassuring that many Metro Manila schools, hospitals and other business establishments have been identified as highly vulnerable to a strong quake. The Phivolcs estimates tens of thousands of deaths and more than 100,000 persons being injured with 30 percent damage in houses and buildings in Metro Manila for a 7.2 magnitude earthquake.

In a hospital setting, what can we do to protect our bed-ridden patients or what should they do to protect themselves? What should physicians and surgeons do when an earthquake occurs in the middle of an operation or delivery of a baby?

Comprehensive plan

Dr. Reynaldo Joson, chair of the disaster preparedness committee of the Manila Doctors Hospital, reviewed the status of most hospitals' earthquake preparedness and response plan, and found an appalling lack of information. In fact, if you search the literature, there is hardly any published earthquake preparedness program. Dr. Joson's committee came up with a comprehensive plan that took into consideration the peculiarities in a hospital setting.

The earthquake preparedness and response plan of a hospital is very different from that of the schools and business establishments. "The earthquake preparedness and response plan for the hospitals is more complicated because of the presence of sick people who are difficult to protect and evacuate," explains Dr. Joson.

For hospitals which still don't have an earthquake response plan, Dr. Joson is generously sharing their plan. They tested this plan with an actual drill last June 20 at the Manila Doctors Hospital and they found it comprehensive enough, simple and easy to implement. The MDH drill was participated in by 623 staff, 300 patients and 228 visitors.

What to do

So what to do when an earthquake strikes and you are in a hospital:

- Once you feel there is an earthquake, keep calm and do not panic.
- Stay where you are. Move only a few steps to a nearby safe place. Do not go inside a room, if you are outside. Do not go outside a room if you are inside

Instruct and assist persons who do not know what to do and who are disabled.

If inside the room, for ambulatory persons (staff, patients, and visitors):

- Open the door to prevent possible jamming. You may stand under the door frame.
- Move away from windows, glass, light fixtures, bookshelves, or any structure that could fall on you.
- "Drop, cover and hold" under sturdy tables if present.
- Stand or sit near concrete columns.
- Watch out for falling objects.

For bed-ridden patients, have a pillow on their heads to protect them from falling objects.

For staff and patients in the operating, delivery and treatment rooms: If in the middle of an operation or procedure, stop for a while but make sure there is no ongoing bleeding, oxygenation is maintained, and the life of patients is not unduly compromised. Watch out for falling objects and be ready to protect the patients and yourself.

If outside the room—in the lobby, along a corridor or hallway, on the stairs, etc.:

- Stay where you are. Move only a few steps to a nearby safe place.
- Move away from windows, glass, light fixtures, or any structure that could fall on you.
- Stand or sit near concrete columns.
- Watch out for falling objects.

Remain in this position until the "shaking" stops.

- If inside the elevators, get off at the next floor and follow instructions under "if outside a room."

Postquake activities

After the earthquake,

1. Prepare for possible evacuation. Look for indications for evacuation such as:
   - Signs of impending fall of debris and structures.
   - Signs of impending collapse of rooms/buildings
   - Strong repeated shocks
2. Listen for evacuation announcement from hospital authority.
3. Watch out for fire, potential explosion, gas leaks, damage to electrical system, damage to water system.

Report cracks on the wall, danger spots and physical injuries to hospital authority.

For further information you may visit http://maniladoctors.tripod.com/dpp/disaster.htm or email Dr. Joson at rjoson2001@yahoo.com.

The memory of sleep

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN THE MOVIE "50 FIRST DATES," Drew Barrymore plays a woman named Lucy whose short-term memory was affected by a car accident. She remembers her life before the accident, but when she falls asleep at the end of the day, she awakens each morning with no memory of the previous day's events.

One of the most fascinating scenes in the movie however, is when Barrymore's character reveals a studio filled with portraits of Adam Sandler's character Henry, of whom she has deliberately ensured she has no memories. Technically, it seems, that latter statement was untrue: Lucy has no episodic or declarative memories of Henry where she can consciously recall having spent any time with him, be it the previous day or at all. However, Lucy's nondeclarative memory—her unconscious memories of skills learned such as how to ride a bike—is fine, as evidenced by her ability to draw the same face—Henry's—over and over again.

Link quite established

Given Lucy's behavior, a recent paper in the July 11th issue of the journal Current Biology might well lead one to wonder whether or not the night's sleep that seemingly erases her episodic memory also helps her retain her nondeclarative memories. Based on the experimental results derived by lead author Jeffrey Ellenbogen at Harvard Medical School and his colleagues from the University of Oregon and the University of Pennsylvania, the link between sleep and nondeclarative memory appears quite established.

For their study, Ellenbogen et al. worked with 5 groups of a dozen people each, assigning each group a list of 20 word pairs to memorize by heart with the aid of a computer exercise. The 2 Sleep groups memorized the word pairs at 9 p.m. and then were asked to return at 9 o'clock the following morning after a good night's sleep to see how well they remembered the words. The 2 Wake groups memorized the word pairs at 9 a.m. and were asked to return for testing at 9 p.m. following a full day's activities.

The final group was trained at 9 p.m. and then asked to return at 9 p.m. the following day after having both a night's sleep and a full day's activities to see how well they remembered the list of words.

Additional task

Ellenbogen et al. tacked on an additional task for one of the Sleep and one Wake group, called Sleep-1 and Wake-1 to differentiate them from the other groups: upon returning for their memory tests, these participants were given a second list of 20 word pairs, where half of each pair was the same as a word on the previous list. Once the second list was memorized the participants went through a distraction exercise just before being asked to recall as many pairs as possible from the first list.

The researchers found that the Wake group had an average score of 82 percent recall while the Wake-1 group, being distracted, had an average score of 32 percent. On the other hand, the Sleep group had an average score of 94 percent and Sleep-1 group had an average score of 76 percent for the first list. The 24-hour group had an average score of 71 percent. (Both the Sleep-1 and Wake-1 groups had average scores of over 90 percent for the second list.)

Cramming can work

Based on these results, Ellenbogen et al. determined that sleep does in fact help retain recently acquired memories. While the Wake group's results could arguably demonstrate that cramming can work, the Wake-1 results show that this is true only when students go straight from studying for a specific subject to taking that test.

What the study does not explain is how Lucy was able to remember Henry's face—arguably the movie's premise need not be fact-based, but it is fair to point out that the researchers only dealt with nondeclarative memory rather than episodic memory for this paper. Perhaps a future study could answer that question, focusing on whether or not episodic memories could become nondeclarative ones. The results of that study could explain just why Lucy remembers the face of a man she's never met.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit and tree of life

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

I HAD HEARD ABOUT DR. CONRADO Dayrit before we met. My father William, UP Medicine Class of 1960, spoke fondly of his former professor, the tireless scientist, researcher and doctor. So when I invited him and his genteel wife Mila to dinner a few years back, mainly to renew ties with my father, I was not surprised when the discussion started with students and classmates. But I did not realize that one of my health myths would be shattered: contrary to what my diet books said, coconut oil was not only not harmful, but it was actually beneficial to us.

With passion the gentle doctor related a sad tale. Up till the end of the Second World War, coconut oil was widely used throughout the world, and the tree of life was a major export crop for our country. But in the mid-1980s, the emerging soybean industry in the US lobbied against tropical oils, warning against the alleged dangers of coconut's highly saturated—compared to soybean's unsaturated—fat content. The campaign became so effective that coconut oil was soon shunned—even in the Philippines.

Health benefits of coconut

Our coconut industry deteriorated, with land increasingly converted into industrial and commercial areas. To make matters worse, the accusations levied against coconut oil were simply not true. In 1960 Dr. Dayrit had already penned an editorial for the Journal of the Philippine Medical Association on the health benefits of coconut. In the next decades, here and abroad Dr. Dayrit reiterated that far from causing heart disease, coconut oil may even prevent it, and many other illnesses, besides.

How? The fat in coconut is lauric acid, not cholesterol, and it can kill viruses, bacteria and fungi, such as those causing herpes, ulcers and ringworm. Similar to the substance found in mother's milk that protects infants from illness, lauric acid can strengthen our immune system, and even combat AIDS. In 2000, Dr. Dayrit led a Department of Health study to establish the anti-HIV effects of coconut oil in 15 AIDS patients in San Lazaro Hospital, Manila. Within six months, most of the patients showed a reduced' viral count, with no serious side effects. Perhaps coconut oil may also fight SARS and bird flu.

After grade school, high school and college at the Ateneo de Manila, Dr. Dayrit graduated from the University of the Philippines in 1943 and went for further training in clinical pharmacology in the United States. Upon his return here, Dr. Dayrit became one of the founders of the Philippine Heart Association (PHA), in fact, he is now the only one alive (a tribute, shall we say, to coconut oil). In 1953, he was part of the team who performed the first open heart surgery at the Philippine General Hospital. In 1955, for his work on digitalis for heart patients, the Sunday Times Magazine deemed him "Most Outstanding Young Man in Science," the forerunner of today's The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM). Dr. Dayrit joined an all-Filipino drug company, United Laboratories, where he established a research arm. Throughout his career, he has tried his best to produce low-cost medicines for the poor.

A light in this world

Like the best scientific minds, Dr. Dayrit made contributions to several disciplines: nutrition, tuberculosis control, hormones, analgesics, antiinflammatories, anticancer drugs. He wrote popular science books and journal articles, and received many awards for research, teaching and lifetime achievement. Today Dr. Dayrit is an Academician of the National Academy of Science and Technology, professor emeritus at the UP College of Medicine, medical director of the Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center, president of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Colleges, emeritus editor in chief of the Philippine Journal of Internal Medicine, board member of the Philippine Institute for Pure and Applied Chemistry in the Ateneo.

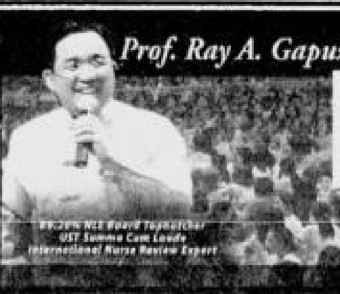
Dr. Dayrit is justly proud of his eight children and more than 20 grandchildren—all achievers in their own right. His children, all professionals, include a former health secretary, a pulmonologist, an exporter, bankers, educators and the current Ateneo Dean of the School of Science and Engineering.

I have seen Dr. Dayrit work his magic on children firsthand. After dinner, he and his wife invited us to their home, where he serenaded us with the violin. My son, then three years old, sat enraptured, a beatific smile on his face.

On Tuesday, the Ateneo de Manila University will bestow the Lux in Domino Award to Dr. Dayrit, who through his words and actions, embodies wisdom, courage and integrity. Truly, he is a light in our world.

E-mail the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.

BUILD THAT 100% CONFIDENCE in PASSING the BOARD EXAM



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Baguio	Sept. 25- Oct. 12	Oct. 31-Nov.7
Dagupan	Sept.27-Oct. 8	Oct. 31-Nov.7
Cebu	Sept. 29- Oct.10	Oct. 28-Nov.5
Davao	Oct. -15	Oct. 24-30

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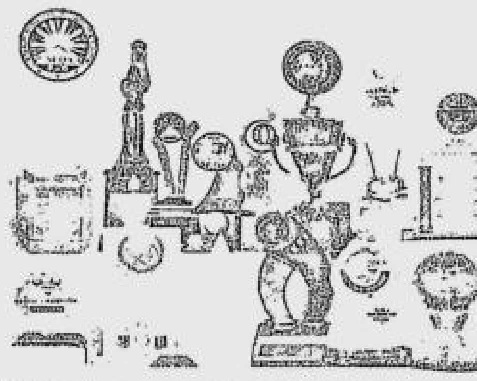

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AyalaLand

INVITATION TO BID

ALI Bid Sale No. 09-2006

Ayala Land, Inc. is inviting offers to purchase by way of sealed bids the following items:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION OF ITEMS	MINIMUM BID
Lot 1	One (1) unit York Chiller (decommissioned) – 300TR; R11.	Lower Basement, Makati Stock Exchange Bldg., Ayala Avenue, Makati City	P287,000.00
Lot 2	One (1) unit Generator Set 72kVA, 220V.	San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park, Makati City	P90,000.00
Lot 3	One (1) unit Generator Set 70kVA, 220V.	San Antonio Plaza, Forbes Park, Makati City	P85,000.00
Lot 4	One (1) lot Obsolete Cinema Equipment and parts. Obsolete Computers and peripherals.	Projection Room, Glorietta 1 Cinema, Ayala Center, Makati City	P60,000.00

Details of the items as well as the bid documents (Bid Forms, Bidders Tender and Invitation to Bid) may be obtained at Ayala Land, Inc - Materials Management Division (ALI-MMD), Bldg. 6, EDSA corner McKinley Road, Makati City. Contact person: Mr. Rey L. Lavapiez, Telephone No. 818-7471 (loc. 109).

Sealed bids should be dropped at the Bid Box located at ALI-MMD on or before July 24, 2006 at exactly two o'clock p.m. The bids shall be labeled ALI-BID SALE No. 09-2006

Bidder's deposit equivalent to ten (10) percent of the bid price in Cash (Philippine Currency) or in Certified Manager's Check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. shall be enclosed with the sealed bid. Any other form or draft purportedly as manner of payment is not acceptable. A bid without the required bidder's bond shall be declared disqualified.

The bidder must sign the bid form, bidders tender and the sealed envelop across its flap. Unsigned documents shall be a ground for the disqualification of the bid offer. Any erasure, correction, and/or addition must be initialed by the bidder.

The sealed bids will be opened in the presence of the representatives from ALI-MMD, ALI-Audit and Systems, all participating bidders or their representatives and other interested parties

The sale of the items shall be on an "As is, Where is" basis. The winning bidder shall undertake the full responsibility to acquire the necessary permits in order to have peaceful possession of the items included in the sale.

Upon evaluation and determination of the result of the bidding, a Notice of Award will be issued to the winning bidder. In the event that the winning bidder refuses to accept the award and/or abide by the conditions of the bid, the bid deposit will be forfeited in favor of ALI. The award shall then be given to the next qualified highest bidder.

Upon the winning bidder's acceptance of the Notice of Award, full payment must be made within three (3) working days at ALI-Treasury, 30/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. This will be in the form of cash or manager's check in favor of Ayala Land, Inc. A penalty of ten (10) percent of the bid price plus an additional interest based on the prevailing market rate shall be imposed if the winning bidder fails to withdraw the merchandise from the designated storage area after seven (7) calendar days from the date of receipt of the Notice of Award

The award shall be made to the bidder who made the most advantageous offer to Ayala Land, Inc. ALI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any defect found therein

All awards shall be subject to the approval of the head of ALI's Materials Management Division and the ALI Comptroller whose decision shall be binding on all concerned.

(Signed) JUANITO P. ROSALES
Vice President
Materials Management Division

(PDI–July 22, 2006)

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, Inc.
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INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** and **SEALED BIDDING** for the supply of

a) Three (3) units 69kv circuit breakers for the upgrading of the protective devices of BENECO's Atok 5 MVA Substation, Bulalacao 3:75 MVA Substation and Sinipsip 5 MVA Substation.
b) Differential Relays of BENECO's 2-20 MVA North Sanitary Camp Substation.

The **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** will be held on **July 27, 2006** at **10:00 A.M.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City where the technical description and specification and other related matters will be discussed.

Prospective bidders must submit their Company Profile; Income Tax Returns and Audited Financial Statements for the past three (3) years and Track Record.

SEALED BIDS must be received on or before **August 15, 2006** at **10:00 A.M.** at the Punctuality Hall, BENECO Building, DPS Compound, Utility Road, Baguio City. **OPENING OF BIDS** will be on the same date, time and venue.

Only those who were present during the Pre-Qualification Conference and who submitted the above-enumerated requirements will be allowed during the Bidding Proper.

BENECO reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to the BENECO.

THE PBAC

Approved for publication:

(Sgd.) **GERARDO P. VERZOSA**
General Manager

(PDI – July 16 & 22, 2006)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMAMENT AND AMMUNITION CENTER
ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, PHILIPPINE ARMY
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

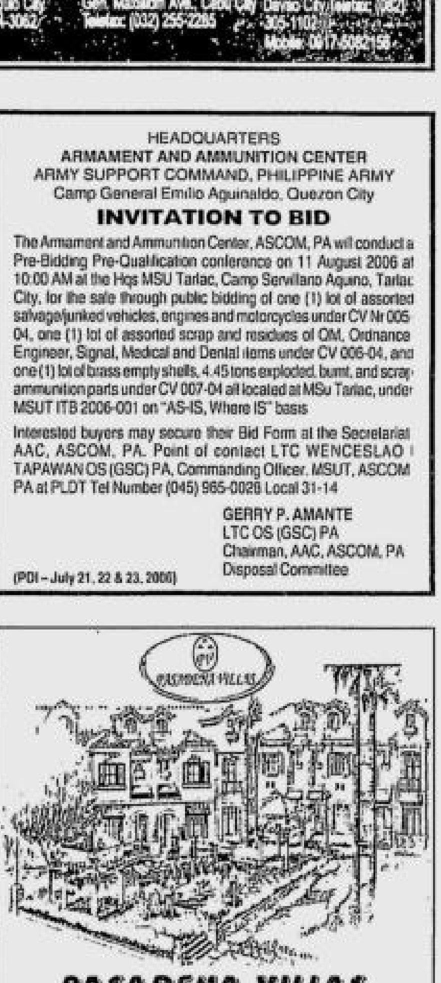
INVITATION TO BID

The Armament and Ammunition Center, ASCOM, PA will conduct a Pre-Bidding Pre-Qualification conference on 11 August 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Hqs MSU Tarlac, Camp Servillano Aquino, Tarlac City, for the sale through public bidding of one (1) lot of assorted salvage/junked vehicles, engines and motorcycles under CV Nr 005-04, one (1) lot of assorted scrap and residues of QM, Ordnance Engineer, Signal, Medical and Dental items under CV 006-04, and one (1) lot of brass empty shells, 4.45 tons exploded, burnt, and scrap ammunition parts under CV 007-04 all located at MSu Tarlac, under MSUT ITB 2006-001 on "AS-IS, Where IS" basis

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Form at the Secretariat AAC, ASCOM, PA. Point of contact LTC WENCESLAO I TAPAWAN OS (GSC) PA, Commanding Officer, MSUT, ASCOM PA at PLDT Tel Number (045) 965-0026 Local 31-14

GERRY P. AMANTE
LTC OS (GSC) PA
Chairman, AAC, ASCOM, PA
Disposal Committee

(PDI – July 21, 22 & 23, 2006)



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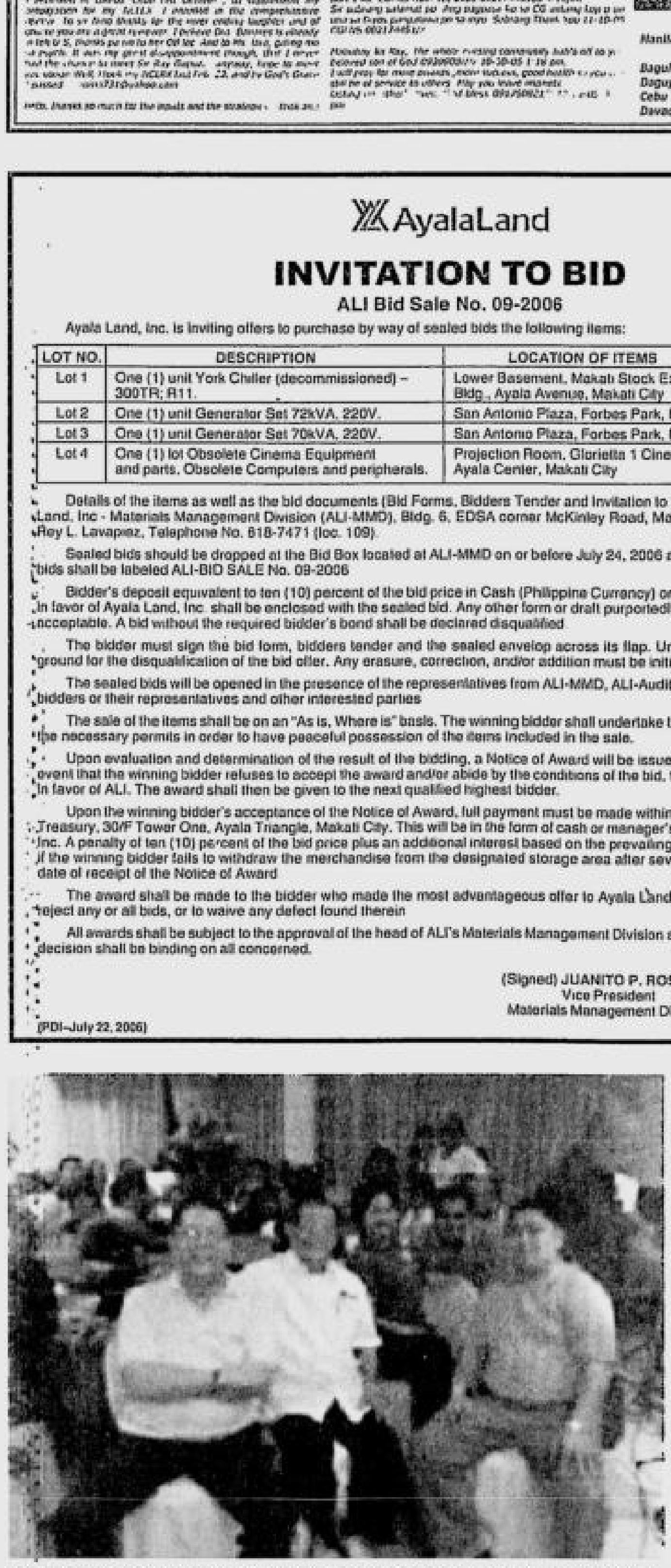


PALSCON (Philippine Association of Local Service Contractors) attends the 6th National PESO Congress at Cagayan De Oro City on July 20. Seated from right, Mr. Ignacio "Boy" Diaz, QC *PESO manager*; Mr. Peter C. Capitan, *national PESO president*; Ms. Ma. Luisa Gigette Imperial, *Bureau of Local Employment director*; and lawyer Giovanni H. Melgar, *Palscon president* and one of the resource speakers.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
MUNICIPALITY OF ANGONO

INVITATION TO BID

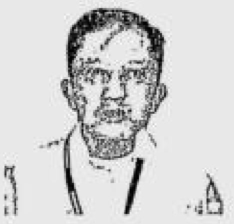
Sealed proposal for the MEDICINE SUPPLIES of Angono, Rizal as described below in accordance with the specifications and requirements thereof will be received in the Office of the Mayor until then publicly opened in the presence of attending bidders the same date.

1. The proposals would be submitted in an enveloped properly labeled and identified which will be publicly opened at the OFFICE OF THE MAYOR on August 14, 2006 at 10 o'clock a.m. or thereafter on the same day. No proposals will be accepted after same time set for closing of the bidding as above indicated.
2. The determination of eligibility of the supplier shall be based on the submission of the following documents to the BAC,
   a) Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or SEC registration certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines;
   b) Valid and current Mayor's permit/municipal license;
   c) Taxpayer's Identification Number,
   d) Statement of the prospective bidder that is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the Government or any of its agencies offices, corporations or LGU's, including non-conclusion in the Consolidated Blacklisting Report issued by the GPPB, once released in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of the IRR-A;
   e) Other appropriate licenses as may be required by the procuring entity concerned.
3. In case of tie, award will be given to the bidder who first submitted his bid
4. For further particulars, respective bidders may call at the Office of the Mayor, Angono, Rizal during office hours.
5. The rights are reserved to reject any calls or all bids, to waive any defect therein or to accept such bids as may considered most advantageous to the government. ATTENTION IN INVITED TO COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 138, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FLAG LAW TO WHICH ALL BIDDERS ARE AMENABLE.

(Sgd.) NANCY I. UNIDAD
BAC Chairman

(PDI–July 22 & 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Emilio B. Calvario

This is to inform the public that **Mr. Emilio B. Calvario**, whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with **Ingasco Inc.** effective July 16, 2006.

Any transaction entered into or made through him shall not be honored by **Ingasco, Inc.**

(PDI - July 22, 2006)

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"I am the way, the truth and the life
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Atty. Eugenia Marfori-Celi

November 15, 1920 – July 20, 2006

Peacefully joined our Lord
and her beloved husband **Alfredo M. Celi**,
sister **Estela M. Posadas**, brother **Mario L. Marfori**.

Her beloved child **Maria Estela** request the pious reader
to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at
Ruby Street, Marfori Heights, Davao City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 26, 2006
at San Pedro Memorial Park, Davao City after a mass
at 8:00 am at the Assumption Church Torres.

Our dearly beloved

Clara Evangelista Catindig

Peacefully joined our Creator
on July 20, 2006
at the age of 68.

She will be missed by
her loving husband **Ben**
children **Clarissa** & **Alfie**, **Pompeyo** & **Len**, **Sidney** and **Benjor**
grandchildren **Enzo**, **Gabby**, **Cassandra**, **Isabelle Maegan** & **Miggy**
relatives and friends.

Your prayers are requested for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at
Funeraria Paz, Lumbang Room
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Parañaque
from July 21 to July 23, 2006.

We love you Mom.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

Our Beloved

DR. FRANCES "FRANKIE" JAVIER BLANCO-DIZON

(UP College of Medicine Class '95)

Peacefully joined our Creator and her father,
*the late **Cholo Blanco**, on July 16, 2006 at the age of 34.*

Her bereaved husband **Raymond**; mother **Josie**; brother **Joey**; grandma **Titay**; titos/titas, cousins, nieces/nephews, in-laws, friends and colleagues request the pious readers to join them in their prayers for the eternal repose of her soul and everlasting joy in the eternal kingdom of our Creator.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at 14 3rd Street, Don E. Sero, Cotabato City. Interment will be on July 25, 2006 at Marian Hills, Cotabato City after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish.

Message of Thanks

We the family of the late

Lourdes (Ludy) Sabido Aguirre

wish to convey our deepest appreciation
to all our relatives and friends for their undying
*love, concern and support for **Ludy**.*

*Her loving husband **Pedro**, children*
and grandchildren wish that you include
her in your prayers.

Nightly novena masses will be held at 6:30 pm until Thursday at their residence in Narra.

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Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate
Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

CSB HOTEL
Arellan Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P. Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

Intercontinental Manila
1 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Tel 815-9711
www.intercontinental.com

Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2)
728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/Fax (082) 225-1888

Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

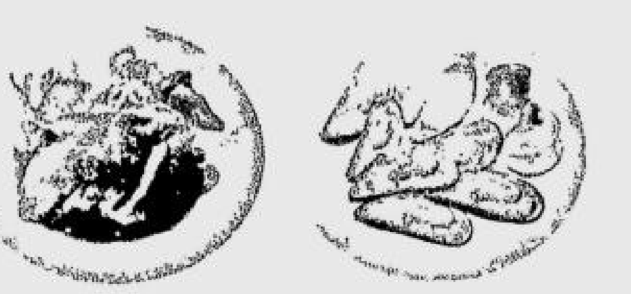
Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

Rainy day rooms discounts and affordable party packages at City Garden



LET CITY GARDEN HOTEL MAKATI TAKE you on a grand rainy days getaway. Check in in one of its guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

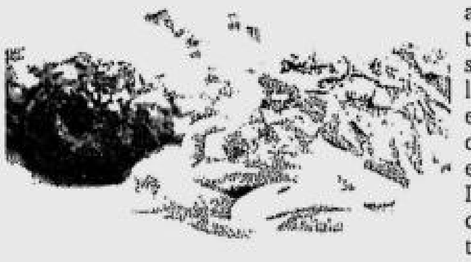
After check-in, try out its fully equipped gym, or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

Party packages go for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrangements, and other amenities. Reception venues may be held at its cozy, fully equipped function rooms or at the al fresco roof deck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis. Hold your party on a weekday and enjoy further discount of almost 10 to 30 percent from the package.

Accessibility is also not a problem as the hotel is just five minutes from the Rockwell and Glorietta malls and the Makati Commercial and Business District. As an added amenity, the hotel is offering free scheduled shuttle service to the Makati CBD.

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquires, call 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336), or at www.citygardenhotels.com .

Seafood Fridays at The Bellevue Hotel



A SHOWER OF seafood dishes happens at Alabang's favorite food haunt, The Bellevue Hotel, every Friday at the lunch and dinner buffets at the hotel's main dining outlet, the Café d' Asie. For only P795++, feast on the fruits of the sea with succulent seafood dishes such as Scallops Hollandaise, Jumbo Shrimps A La Nage, Fillet of Red Snapper, Rellenong Pusit, Steamed Crab with Ginger and Leeks and Singaporean Chili Mussels.

A harmonious duet of dark and white chocolate ganache on pâté a bombé, The Bellevue Hotel's Cake of the Month for July is Chocolate Duo. Made to satisfy every chocolate lover's fantasy, this sweet sensation is lovingly made by the hotel's expert pastry chefs. Give as a gift or enjoy as perfect endings to sumptuous meals.

This entertainment and leisure destination of choice in the southern Metro Manila area also invites everyone to put on their dancing shoes for the exciting Bellevue Dance Party on Saturday, July 29 at the hotel's 20/20 Entertainment Bar. Held every other Saturdays at 7 p.m., the event relives the dance music fever of the '70s, '60s and other all-time favorite tunes in a dance arena overlooking the beautiful night lights of the south. Tapping the genius of Poncy Quirino, a well-known party organizer during the '70s and himself a dance master, this event will undoubtedly shake the southern Metro Manila party scene. Entrance fee of P500 nett gets you in with two standard drinks, plus a special happy hour rate happens at the stroke of midnight. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

137TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF DR. PIO VALENZUELA

Valenzuela City Mayor Sherwin T. Gatchalian with Mar Arenas and Vice-Mayor Antonio Espiritu at the Opening of the Valenzuela City Center for the Perfroming Arts during the 137th Birth Anniversary Celebration of Dr. Pio Valenzuela

People, Events & Products

iBOS/e eHR realizes 'paperless HR'

HR MANAGERS HAVE ALWAYS DREAMT OF DIGITIZING THE TONS OF employee records and documents that pile up in their desks and filing cabinets. But their dream has remained just that - a big elusive dream. Enter iBOS/e eHR. iBOS/e eHR is a suite of web-based HR modules powered by iBOS/e WebShell, the Business Flow pillar of DIET (Digital Infostructure Enterprise). Among these modules are: iBOS/e eRecruitment; iBOS/e eMovements; iBOS/e ePerformance; iBOS/e eCompensation; iBOS/e eBenefits; iBOS/e eTraining; iBOS/e eLeaves; iBOS/e ePayroll; iBOS/e eTimekeeping. iBOS/e eHR enables employees to "self-serve" their HR services need. Because the HR Team is not anymore bogged down by the never-ending phone calls from employees, it can now spend more time on strategic HR efforts such as strategizing talent retention programs, analyzing causes of resignations, etc. iBOS/e eHR works in conjunction with BOS/e PeopleWARE, the workhorse of the HR Team. While iBOS/e eHR provides employees with web-based access to HR information and services right from their desktops, BOS/e PeopleWARE fully automates the day-to-day tasks of the HR Team such as employee records management, leave processing, payroll computation, among others. Infostructure Systems & Consulting Corp, holds main offices on the 12/F of 6780 Ayala Ave., Makati City Metro Manila Philippines with tel. nos. +632-893-8844, +632-892-3325, you may e-mail infostructure@eenterprise.net or visit www.infostructure.com.ph.

Hapee Freshcapades at Metrowalk

NOT EVEN THE RAIN COULD BRING DOWN THE FEVER HEAT IN Metrowalk-Ortigas when Hapee Freshcapades toothgels invaded the newest leisure hub with five of the country's hottest alternative bands. Thousands of students and yuppies across the metro partied 'til midnight with Join the Club, Kala, Sandwich, Bloomfields, and Kjwan in the recently held Hapee Freshcapades Back-to-School Bash. As if listening to the bands' hits wasn't enough, the excitement went on as lucky guests won brand new ipods, cool shirts and gift packs from Hapee Freshcapades. And as an added bonus, 16 students came home with a promise of 10 months worth of baon! The Hapee Freshcapades Back-to-School Bash is co-sponsored by Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT, K-Lite 103.5, and Jam 88.3

THE POWER OF TWO INDUSTRY GIANTS

Intel and Acer, through their respective representative offices here in the Philippines, Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc. and Acer Philippines, Inc., recently conducted a "Technology and Product Update" at the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The event enjoyed brisk attendance, as people gathered and listened intently as presentors from both companies showcased and re-acquainted guests with products from the world's number 2 PC vendor, all powered by processors manufactured by Intel, the world's largest semiconductor and processor manufacturer. Shown are (from left) Carlo Subido, business solutions manager, Intel Microelectronics Phils., Jun N. Garcia, IT strategy and planning head, Ambergris Solutions.; Asst. Commissioner Alberto Pio de Roda, Bureau of Internal Revenue and Manuel L. Wong, general manager, Acer Philippines, Inc.

JAPANESE BAKING TECHNOLOGY AT WORLD FOOD EXPO

World Food Expo (WOFEX 2006) is an annual international trade show on worldwide food and beverages, machineries & technology to be held this Aug. 2 to 5 at World Trade Center, organized by Premier Events Plus Group Inc. Only on its 6th year of inception, WOFEX has already garnered the respect and admiration of the players in the food and beverage industry. One of its foreign exhibitor, Minami Tsushow Co Ltd, a Japanese company engaged in supplying bakery equipment and all other types of food service machinery. In photo during contract signing (from left), M. Yoshida, president of Minami Tsushow Co. Ltd and Jocelle Pascual, vice president for marketing of Premier Events Plus Group Inc. For more information, please log on to www.wofex.com or call 9297993, 4354790, 9208136, 9297993, 4269603 or email info@PEPGroup.com.

CERVEZA NEGRA JAZZ TOUR KICKS OFF

Lovers of jazz music get a rare treat as Cerveza Negra holds its Jazz Tour from June to December at select establishments in Manila, Makati, Quezon City, and Greenhills. The tour presented by the Philippines' only dark beer has successfully kicked off at M Café, Greenbelt 4, Makati City featuring Mon David, grand prize winner in the first London International Jazz competition. The tour enticing audiences and beer lovers to 'Seize the Night, Enjoy the Dark' include other performances at Quattro in Quezon City on June 30; Phi Bar at Metrowalk on July 15; Hard Rock Makati on Aug. 4; and Dapo Bar & Resto in Quezon City on Aug. 18. The Cerveza Negra offer to be captivated by sensuous jazz music continues at Oyster Boy Greenhills, Mati in Makati, Il Ponticello Makati, Chef & Brewer in Ortigas, Blue Wave Malate, Club Mafia in Libis, and Bistro 110 in Makati on dates to be announced later.

ProductFILES

Who needs a butler?

YOU DO. WITH THE MULTITUDE of tasks you have to face day in, day out, every hardworking mom like you could use one. Good thing, you can now make your domestic chores a lot more manageable with a different kind of "butler". In the kitchen, employ a "butler" who's an expert "multi-tasker". Introducing the Orocan Kitchen Butler. It's the ideal candidate because it can perform three jobs and more, depending on the boss' call. You can have it as a glass container, as a bread butler, or even as temporary food storage. With the Orocan Kitchen Butler, you can be sure that food is kept safe and clean at all times. Available in peach, blue, green, red and tapioca colors, the Orocan Kitchen Butler has a dome-shaped, semi-transparent sliding cover which easily and smoothly opens on both sides without getting stuck in the middle. Just like all other Orocan products, The Kitchen Buttler is durable and will surely serve your family well for a long, long time.

SMES GO FOR THE BIG TIME
President Macapagal-Arroyo inspects Christmas lanterns made by a cooperative in Las Piñas during a guided tour of the product booths at the Sulong Negosyo Small and Medium Enterprises exposition in Market Market, Bonifacio Global City. The exposition was organized by the Department of Trade and Industry in cooperation with donor agencies such as the German Technical Cooperation and the Canadian International Development Agency. LYN RILLON

Healthy BOP, OFW remittances shielding economy, group says

By Michelle V. Remo

Institute expects RP to meet low end of GDP growth target

THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY proved resilient despite recent disturbances in the financial market caused by rising interest rates abroad.

The country was aided by the relatively healthy balance of payments position and substantial gains on the fiscal front.

This was the assessment made by the Institute of International Finance Inc. (IIF), which projected that the Philippines was still poised to meet the low-end of its economic growth target for the year despite challenges posed by an adverse investment climate.

The Arroyo administration wants to hit a gross domestic product growth (GDP) of 5.5-6.2 percent this year.

IIF, a global organization of international banks and other financial institutions, noted that political concerns such as those related to calls for constitutional amendments could have dampening effects on investments.

But it added that these were not significant enough to weaken the country's macroeconomic fundamentals.

"The weak popular standing of President (Gloria Macapagal) Arroyo and a protracted debate over constitutional reform are hobbling new initiatives needed to revive investment and sustain strong growth over the medium term, although the balance of payments and the economy have become more resilient to both domestic and external shocks," IIF said in its recent assessment of the Philippine economy.

The Philippines' BOP position stood at a surplus of $2.04 billion in the first half of the year, up from $1.98 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The BOP surplus was attributed to a strong exports performance and remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

In the first six months, the country's exports grew 16 percent year-on-year to reach $18.687 billion.

The exports growth was double the 8-percent export growth target for the year.

IIF said this was expected to help the country maintain a current account balance of $3 billion to $3.5 billion this year and next year.

To show that it was serious about fighting inflation, the US Federal Reserve had implemented 17 successive interest rate hikes since June 2004, with the Fed rate brought recently to 5.25 percent."

The increase had stirred the international financial market given the impact of US rate adjustments on the movement of capital.

An increase in US interest rate makes bonds issued by emerging economies like the Philippines less attractive, therefore possibly triggering capital flight.

The hikes in US interest rate, although seen ending for the time being, forced central banks in some emerging economies to raise their own policy rates in the first half.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, however, opted to keep its rate unchanged.

The last time the BSP hiked rates was in October last year, when the overnight borrowing and lending rates were increased by 25 basis points to 7.5 and 9.75 percent, respectively.

IIF said an improving fiscal condition helped the Philippine weather the impact of rising interest rates.

"The 91-day Treasury bill rate jumped from a four-year low of 5.2 percent in mid-April to 9.1 percent in mid-June at the height of the market turmoil, but receded to 7.1 percent in mid-July," the IFF noted.

The national government recorded three consecutive monthly surplus to June, settling the fiscal position in the first half of the year to a deficit of only P31.5 billion, much lower than the P90.4-billion ceiling set for the period and the P67.5-billion deficit recorded during the same period last year.

IIF said gains in the fiscal sector were reasons why investor confidence in the country's credit standing was not much affected by the volatile international financial market.

Big power consumers to soon choose own supplier of electricity

By Abigail L. Ho

CUSTOMERS OF THE LOPEZ-RUN Manila Electric Co. with an average demand of at least 1 megawatt (MW) a month may soon be able to choose their own power supplier.

This developed as the National Power Corp. nears an agreement with the distribution utility on the implementation of the "Customer Choice Program."

"We have been conducting continuous discussions with Meralco. Although there are still some issues that have to be resolved, there are already some agreements reached," Napocor corporate communications officer-in-charge Alma Hermosura said.

She did not elaborate.

In a letter addressed to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Meralco chair and chief executive Manuel Lopez last April gave an "unconditional offer" to exclude big industrial and commercial customers from the distribution utility's captive market, even before the declaration of retail competition and open access.

Shortly after giving that offer, Meralco informed its customers of the planned "Customer Choice Program," saying in a letter that those who would not qualify for or benefit from Napocor's time-of-use (TOU) rates could still opt for Meralco's average mixed generation charges.

"The program being contemplated is in essence, purely voluntary and provides some potential benefits of retail competition," Meralco told customers.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said Meralco's offer would help enable the industrial sector avail themselves of the lower TOU rates of Napocor, which would, in turn, help reduce their cost of doing business in the Meralco franchise area.

This would likewise promote investments and the creation of additional jobs, as well as help push privatization forward by creating a new market for potential buyers of Napocor plants that would be placed on the auction block, he added.

To facilitate the implementation of the program, Ms Arroyo directed Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. to finalize details of the new arrangement with Meralco, ideally within two weeks of the presentation of the offer.

The scheme could be implemented immediately after the Energy Regulatory Commission's approval of the details and mechanics of the new arrangement.

The mechanics of the program had yet to be finalized, although Napocor's Hermosura said the state firm was "optimistic" that an agreement between it and Meralco would be reached soon.

Once implemented, the Customer Choice Program will enable Meralco's large commercial and industrial customers to take advantage of Napocor's TOU rates by shifting their load to off-peak hours when rates are cheaper.

RP, China ink pact to rehab, upgrade south railways

NAGA CITY—THE PHILIPPINES AND PEOple's Republic of China have signed a memorandum of understanding that would lead to the full operation of the railway from Calamba, Laguna to Matnog, Sorsogon.

The agreement binds the Chinese and Philippine governments to undertake rehabilitation and upgrading of the railroad, bridges and bends for faster, safer and efficient train services from Southern Tagalog to the gateway to the Visayas and Mindanao at the Matnog Ferry Terminal—stretching 542 kilometers.

The 542-km railway stretch has junctions at Calamba-Lucena, Lucena-Sipocot, Sipocot-Naga, Naga-Legazpi and Legazpi-Matnog, which is yet to be constructed.

The document was signed last June 5 by the National Economic Development Authority, on behalf of the Philippine government, and the Ministry of Commerce of the PRC.

PRC agreed to provide financing for the project that will extend railway services to Matnog, Sorsogon, more than 100 km from Legazpi City junction where the south railway services currently ends.

Under the agreement, China will provide concessional loans to help bankroll the ambitious project.

With the MOU signed, both parties will appoint companies or organizations to implement the project.

To track and review the performance of the project, the Philippine and Chinese governments agreed to create the Philippine-China Economic Joint Working Group to be chaired by Neda.

It will also be through this joint working group that the two parties will consult each other on any issues that may arise during project implementation.

The MOU between the Philippine and Chinese governments declares their adherence to the development of friendly relations and "economic and technical cooperation." *Juan Escandor Jr., Southern Luzon Bureau*

BUSINESSBRIEFS

Public sector deficit down

THE COUNTRY'S CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC SECtor deficit (CSPD) dropped 35 percent to only P33.2 billion in the first quarter.

CPSD is the combined budget gaps of the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations, social security institutions and local government units.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that the latest CPSD was lower than the P77.1 billion programmed for the period and the P51.1 billion recorded in the first quarter of last year.

The CPSD in the first three months was equivalent to 2.4 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The DOF earlier announced that the national government posted a budget deficit of P67.6 billion in the first quarter, lower than the programmed P71.8 billion.

The better-than-programmed deficit of the national government was attributed to the growth in revenue collection.

The fiscal performance of the national government, which slightly breached its spending limits during the period, was influenced by the encouraging revenue generation performance by the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs. *Michelle V. Remo*

Cebu Pac goes to Legazpi

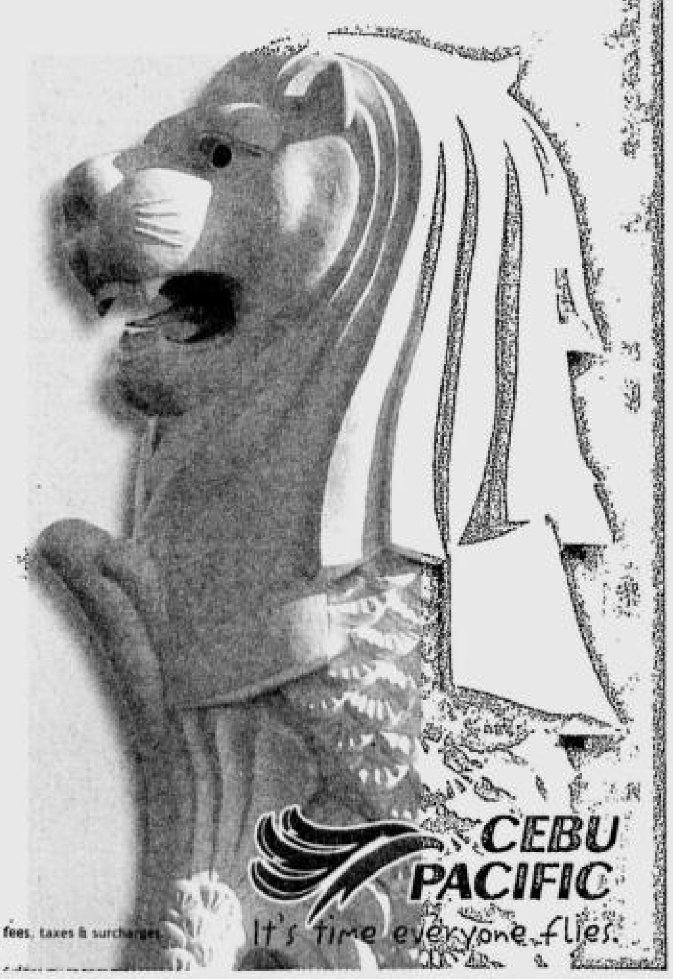
CEBU PACIFIC IS BENT ON FLYING TO LEGAZPI City despite fears of a Mt. Mayon eruption and has even offered a one-way rate of P99.

The budget carrier acknowledged concerns on the heightened activity of Mayon volcano but said the level 3 alert raised in Albay had not affected flights to and from Legazpi City.

Cebu Pacific Air corporate communications manager Marjorie Valiente stressed that CEB and the Air Transport Office uphold "the highest possible standard on safety for airline operations" and that operations were expected to run smoothly as long as airlines are cleared to fly.

The Legazpi service was the third new domestic destination that CEB launched this year following the opening of the Dipolog and Laoag services. The budget airline has also announced the opening of its Singapore flights and the continued arrival of new Airbus aircraft for its domestic and regional expansion project. *Riza T. Olchondra*

FOR ONLY P1,499++
Fly to the Lion City with Cebu Pacific at a special seat sale offer.



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Starting August 31, 2006 Cebu Pacific will fly to Singapore daily using our brand new Airbus A319 aircraft. With the low, low air fare, every Juan can now fly to Singapore.

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Destination	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	LOWEST GO FARES
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Singapore-Manila	5J 804	Daily	0040+1	0405+1	P 2,499++

Call (02) 70-20-888 or visit our Cebu Pacific office or the Travel Agent nearest you.
Terms & conditions apply. One-way fares/vice-versa • Fares may not be available on all days & flights • ++ Fares are exclusive of applicable fees, taxes & surcharges.

Saving energy through landscaping

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

WANT TO FIND A COST-EFFECTive way to save energy at the same time beautify your immediate surroundings? Landscaping could be the answer. Planting trees, vines, grasses and hedges could be your long-term investment to reduce energy bills while at the same time help improve the living conditions in your community.

Planting trees and vegetation is an effective way to reduce heat island effect. Heat island effect refers to the buildup of heat in urban areas brought about by many hard surfaces like concrete and metal, absorbing heat in the day and slowly releasing it at night. This is the main reason urban areas are some degrees warmer than rural areas.

Reducing heat island effect

Widespread planting in a community can decrease local surface and air temperatures. This is why parks and forested areas are much cooler than the nearby city streets. Shading and evapotranspiration (the evaporation of water from leaves) reduces the amount of solar radiation transmitted to underlying surfaces, keeping them cool. Shaded walls may be 5° C to 20° C cooler than surfaces exposed to the sun. These cooler walls decrease the quantity of heat transmitted to buildings, which in turn lowers the air-conditioning costs. Cooler surfaces also reduce the heat island effect by cutting down on heat transfer to the surrounding air.

A city like Manila could learn from studies that have been conducted in California that show summer daytime temperatures to be 2° C to 3° C cooler in tree-shaded neighborhoods than treeless areas.

Environmental benefits

Widespread tree planting and climate-adapted landscaping, as done by many of our Asian neighbors, like Singapore and Malaysia, for example, offer substantial environmental benefits. Trees and vegetation control erosion, protect water supplies, provide food, create habitat for wildlife and clean the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen.

If Metro Manila would extensively and aggressively plant trees in many of its open spaces and lighten the color of dark urban surfaces like roofs, for example, it would result in annual energy savings of billions of kilowatt-hours consumed every year by air-conditioners, on which Metro Manila has become more and more dependent due to global warming. This would reduce power plant emissions of carbon dioxide annually and save users of electricity millions of pesos each year.

Other benefits

Landscaped urban areas provide additional benefits. For example, during heavy rains, the ground can become saturated and turn excess water runoff causing flooding and pollution of open water bodies. This is worsened by large areas of water-resistant surfaces in urban areas like roadways and pavements. Trees and vegetation can help reduce these problems by decreasing the volume of runoff, minimizing flooding and cutting down on energy used for pumps in flood gates and water control areas.

Trees and vegetation can also help improve the quality of life by reducing noise and providing shade from harmful ultraviolet radiation, especially in playgrounds and picnic areas. They also help increase property values, as market studies show that home values are higher on tree-lined streets. Finally, they help reduce physiological stress, especially in highly urbanized areas.

Summer winds

During summer, winds especially at night can help cool the home for natural ventilation. However, if winds are hot and your home is air-conditioned all summer, you may want to prevent summer winds from circulating near your home. To do this, plant bushes and shrubs next to your house to create dead air spaces that insulate your home. Plants must be at least 12 inches away from the wall of your home.

For a country like the Philippines that has a hot humid climate, find some way to channel summer breezes toward the home. Maximize summer shade with trees that still allow penetration of low-angle sun at the latter part of the year.

For new homes

When building a new home, consider its orientation. This means studying where your property is facing with regard to the points of the compass. Notice your lot's exposure to sun, wind and water. Also consider the location of nearby structures, fences, water bodies, trees, concrete walkways and their possible climatic effect on your property. Buildings provide shade and windbreak. Fences block or divert windflow. Water bodies moderate temperature but increase humidity.

For existing homes

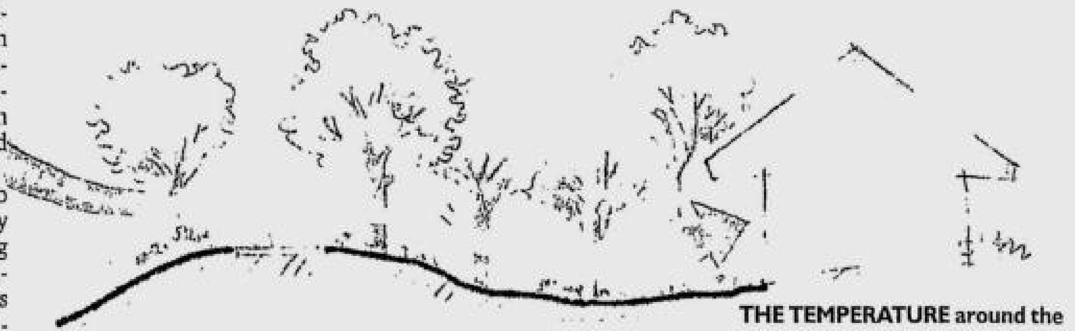
If your home already exists, evaluate its comfort and energy problems. Start with how solar heat passes through windows and the roof. The roof is a major reason people resort to using airconditioners, especially roofs that are not insulated and have no exhausts to flush out heat. Shading can greatly help reduce solar heat gain and cut air-conditioning costs. It is therefore important to know the size and location of the shading device and the shadow it casts on the home.

Whether you have a new home or an existing one, planting a 6-foot or 8-foot deciduous tree (one that sheds its leaves periodically) near your home will begin shading windows the first year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in 5 to 10 years.

If there is not enough space for trees, as in many urban homes, grow vines on a vertical or horizontal trellis to shade the west and east windows and walls of buildings. Window type air-conditioners that are shaded can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent.

Trees, shrubs and groundcover plants can also shade the ground and pavement around the house. This reduces heat bouncing off the ground and cools the air before it reaches your homes walls and windows. Use a large bush or row of shrubs to shade a driveway or sidewalk.

Another way to cut down on energy use is by using certain species of trees, bushes and grasses that require much less water than others. By using these species, you can eliminate the fuel, water and time consumption associated with lawn mowing and watering. This energy-saving technique is called xeriscaping, which uses plants that can survive on rainfall and groundwater once established.



THE TEMPERATURE around the home is lowered by using trees, vegetation and ground covering plants. Large trees shade the ground protecting it from direct sunlight but allow wind flow underneath. Shrubs and ground covering plants retain moisture in the ground, preventing the ground from drying up and building up heat. Trees also shade the walls and roof of a home.

ARCH. AMADO P. DE JESUS & ASSOCIATE

The energy saved by shading that trees provide depends largely on the tree density, its shape and location. Next comes the size of the structure, the sun's position relative to the structure and whether the tree keeps its leaves year round.

Finally, your investment in landscaping can help reduce energy bills only if you select the right kind of trees and shrubs. Trees and shrubs have very long life spans and can become more attractive with age. Keep in mind the proper placement and minimal maintenance of plants to ensure that you reap the many benefits of energy efficiency through landscaping.

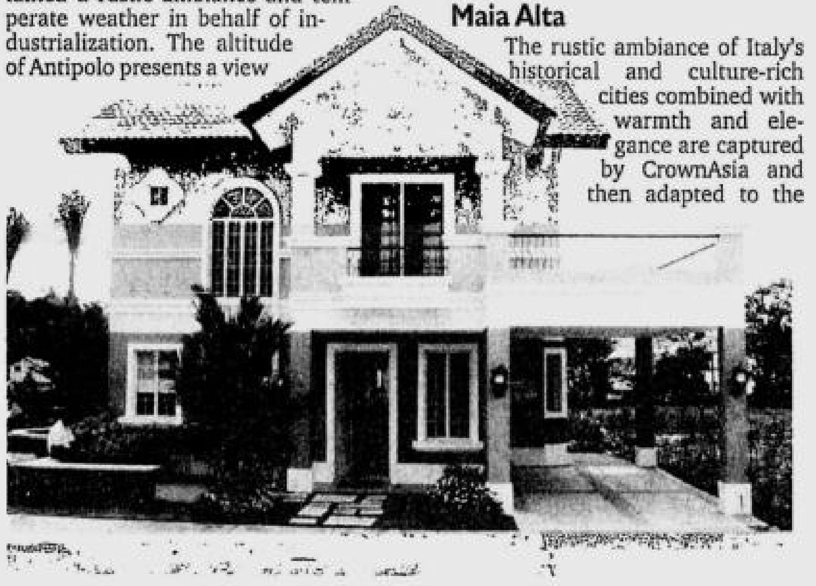
For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Hometowns amid the height of Antipolo City

THE COUNTRY'S TRUSTED PROPERTY developer and Antipolo City's biggest homebuilder, CrownAsia develops two masterplanned, themed communities located in the heights of Antipolo City—WoodBerry and Maia Alta. Both enclaves belong to the company's ProudHometowns division, a roster of defined communities which homeowners can take pride in for generations to come and are specially created for the thousands of Filipino families who have and will select CrownAsia as their home of choice.

A far cry from the bustling concrete jungle, Antipolo City is one of the few places in Metro Manila which has maintained a rustic ambiance and temperate weather in behalf of industrialization. The altitude of Antipolo presents a view of the metropolitan lights and skylines, while the lush growth of trees provide refreshing breeze.

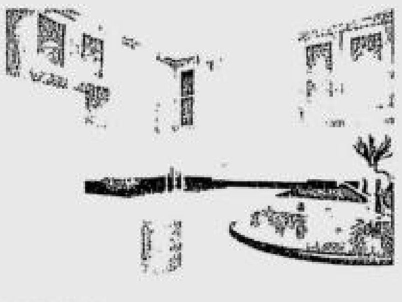
Top golf courses can also be found in Antipolo, the Valley Golf and Country Club, East Ridge, and Forest Hills. Prime schools such as Assumption College Antipolo, Ateneo, University of the Philippines, and Miriam College are only a few minutes away. A 45-minute drive takes you to the business and commercial district of Makati, and 30-minute drive via Marcos Marcos Highway or Ortigas Avenue brings residents close to the Ortigas Center, Greenhills, Araneta Center and Eastwood.



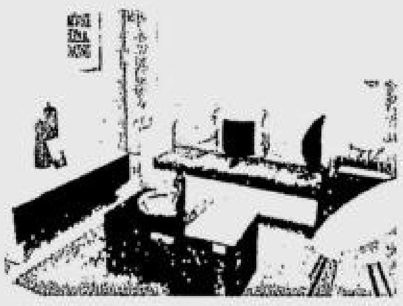
Maia Alta

The rustic ambiance of Italy's historical and culture-rich cities combined with warmth and elegance are captured by CrownAsia and then adapted to the quaint community of Maia Alta. Surrounded by a spectacular view and rolling terrain agreeing with Antipolo's tranquil ambiance, Maia Alta offers the ideal environment in which to raise families.

Driven by the success of the first phase, immediate development of the Hills, Gardens, Orchard and Groves followed. The Terraces is Maia Alta's latest phase and located at the highest point of Antipolo for an unobstructed view of Binangonan and Laguna de Bay.



THE Kitchen



THE living room

Woodberry

Located at the peak of Antipolo City, Woodberry offers a picturesque hilltop neighborhood surrounded by mango orchards. Cool air constantly breezes the surroundings while a sweeping view of greens can be enjoyed by every resident.

Drawn from the architecture of homes found in Westchester and Larchmont in upstate New York, the American style homes at Woodberry feature a homey spirit, and low picket fences which provide privacy yet allow interaction with neighbors. The addition of lush landscaping and wide roads complete the picture-perfect community. WoodBerry sits right across Assumption College Antipolo.

Other enclaves

Other flourishing CrownAsia enclaves belonging to the ProudHometowns division are Amici in Daang Hari, Alabang; Citta Italia in Imus, Cavite; Residenza in Bacoor, Cavite; Amalfi in Dasmariñas, Cavite; and Fortezza in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Visit any of the hometowns and discover what proudly defines CrownAsia's commitment to fulfill the lifelong dreams of Filipino families. Property previews may be arranged by calling 889-2850, 889-3360 or 723-5013; or visit www.crownasia.com.ph on the web.

Poro Point dev't needs urgent review, BCDA says

THE DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR PORO Point in San Fernando, La Union, particularly its seaport, must be thoroughly reviewed to maximize its potential as a world-class export facility and help spur economic development in Northern Luzon, according to the head of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority.

BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya said the current stalemate between the government and the private operator of the Poro Point seaport has become a big hindrance to the country's economic takeoff. He said a swift resolution of the conflict has become urgent in the light of recent developments that make Poro Point a very strategic facility.

Potential income

Abaya cited recent reports from the Board of Investments saying that Taiwanese businessmen are keen on sourcing large volumes of gravel and sand from the Philippines to sustain Taiwan's booming economy. The potential income for such export venture is estimated at no less than $200 million annually, according to the BOI.

The BCDA chief, however, also noted that one Taiwanese businessman, Charles Chen, declared that the government must improve and expand the existing seaport at Poro Point to facilitate the export of gravel and sand to Taiwan since Poro Point is the country's northernmost major seaport.

La Union officials said the province and other areas in Northern Luzon can supply Taiwan's gravel and sand requirements because of the abundance of the material in the region.

At odds

"The problem is that the current operator of the Poro Point seaport and the Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC) are at odds as to the implementation of the development plan for the seaport," Abaya said. "In effect, the country is missing out on an excellent opportunity to turn an almost inexhaustible commodity, gravel and sand, into precious dollars."

Refusal of Bulk Handlers Inc. (BHI), the private company that won the right to operate the seaport and some adjacent areas, to start development unless the government turns over all the areas covered under the lease agreement. The BHI contract was awarded during the time of former President Joseph Estrada.

Officials of PPMC cite one basic flaw in the development plan drawn up by BHI for the Poro Point seaport—the proposed areas for development are under litigation because of adverse claims by other parties, a fact that was known to BHI even before the signing of the agreement.

"It has become a chicken and egg situation. The government cannot deliver the areas under litigation, and in turn BHI does not develop the seaport. The result? Our economy suffers, Abaya said. "This stalemate must be resolved soon."

Ayala Greenfield celebrates flowers, nature

From page B10

of various shapes and sizes from ordinary lumps of clay. With the aid of nothing more than his hands and a rotating disk, he expertly fashioned pots, bowls, jars and teacups, then set them aside to be colored and baked.

"Pottery is considered by many to be the most natural art form, so products formed out of clay are perfect for any natural setting," he said. "In this case, we can design clay pots to become bearers of various plants."

Ikebana

Meanwhile at the Ikebana booth, Serapion Metilla, proprietor and general manager of Mett's plant art, carefully demonstrated the basic styles of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

"A minimalist style that uses no more than three main plant elements to represent heaven, man and earth, Ikebana is a well-studied plant art," he said. "It is a classic, disciplined approach to flower arrangement, perfect for people who prefer structured, minimalist themes in their homes and gardens."

Bonsai

Like Ikebana, growing bonsais also requires a high level of discipline from gardeners, according to John Dizon. At his well-attended seminar, the bonsai hobbyist explained that bonsai growing is a plant art for "those who like to think."

Said Dizon: "Bonsai growing is not just a matter of planting seeds, watering them, and then watching them grow. You have to think about how you want them to grow, how you want them to look, and what style you want them to follow, then work on them accordingly."

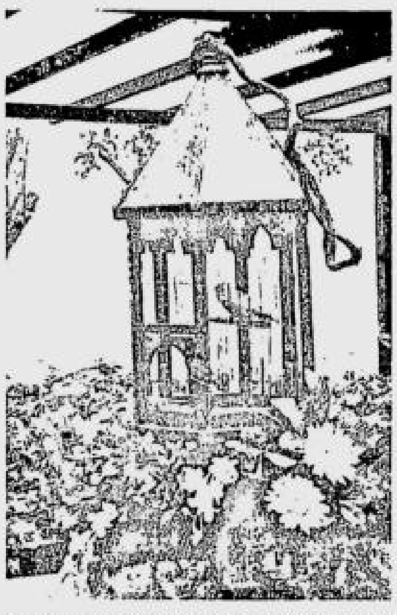
One flower that's particularly sensitive to Ayala Greenfield's cool mountain air is the orchid, a beautiful bloom considered a garden staple by most green thumbs.

During his seminar on orchid care, Carlos Lazaro, owner of Valesol Garden, taught interested gardeners the basics of how to nurture Vandas, Dendrobium and other varieties of orchids when the plants are set amid a slightly modified environment.

Guests who wanted to learn about garden landscaping and flower arrangement, on the other hand, sat before Florence Getalado, event stylist and owner of FBG Flowers and Scents. At her booth, participants arranged gerberas, angels, roses, chrysanthemums and other blossoms into beautiful bouquets, many of which they were allowed to take home.

"I think it's important to equip homeowners with the knowledge of basic landscaping and flower arrangement, especially if they live away from the city," Florence said.

The perfect setting for any garden, Ayala Greenfield (Tel. No. 728-7000) offers a haven for those who want to get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. Located in Calamba, Laguna, its residential lots come with a share in the Ayala Greenfield Golf and Leisure Club, allowing nature lovers and golf enthusiasts to live the ultimate fantasy—playing in an 18-hole, all-weather, championship golf course located just a few steps away from home, amid an abundance of greens and a breathtaking mountain view.



A STYLISH Zen garden greets guests at Ayala Greenfield Estate's open house.

Urban sets seminar on how to avoid foreclosure

TO KNOW AND LEARN MORE ABOUT the financial techniques of avoiding, preventing and remedying foreclosure, present and would-be borrowers and lenders are invited to attend a course on "How to Avoid and Remedy Foreclosure" that will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate on July 26, 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

Topics to be covered include processes in judicial and extrajudicial foreclosure; options available to lenders and borrowers when default occurs; stages of foreclosure; preventive measures to avoid foreclosure; what to do when default is impending and when already in default; some common mistakes of borrowers when in default; redemption and its periods; what to do during the redemption period; deficiency judgment; cases of viable real estate projects and financial techniques that can stop foreclosure and save the collateral.

For more details and inquiries, Urban Institute may be reached at 681-0928, cell phone 0916-4269174.

Premier seaside community rising in Calatagan

PLAYA Calatagan takes full advantage of the area's white sand and crystal clear waters to create Luzon's next premier destination.

By Charles E. Buban

CALATAGAN IN BATANGAS IS perhaps one of the best kept secrets of some prominent families who wanted to feel being back in the olden days of simplicity and serenity, away from the bustling city life.

Known for its white sand beaches, Calatagan has retained the old Spanish provincial charm and laid-back atmosphere—attributes that have attracted Landco Pacific Corp. to develop a 92-hectare property in Barangay Sta. Ana and turn it into the country's first tourism estate designed around a beach community and call it Playa Calatagan.

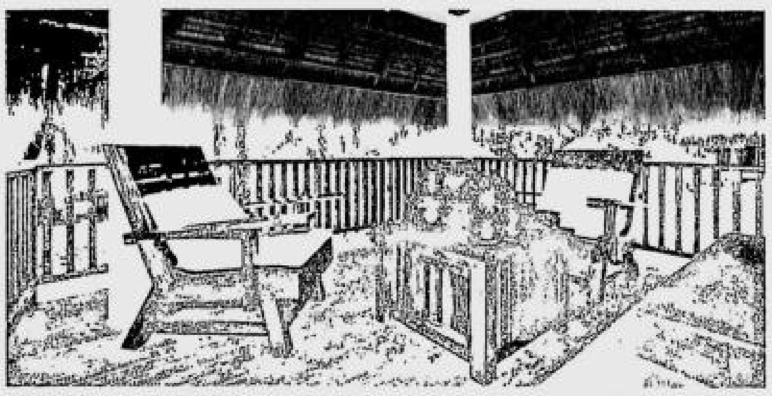
"The decision to focus on building projects geared toward leisure and tourism came about a year ago primarily because we see it as a potential growth sector and key economic driver for the country that has been overlooked for quite some time," says Landco EVP Francis Ceballos.

He is confident that Landco will be successful considering that the company has proven itself more than capable of venturing into this category based on its previous projects like the Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, two flagship seaside developments located in Nasugbu, Batangas.

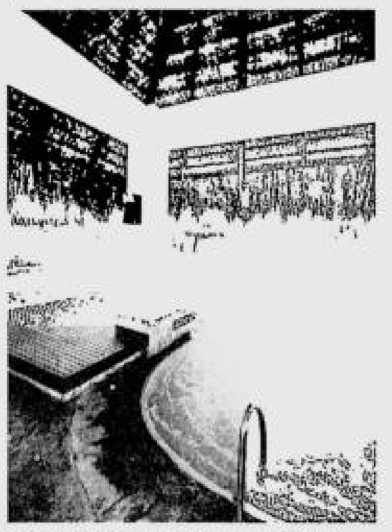
Beach club

Aside from its more than 500 meters of white sand beach front, another prime outdoor features of Playa Calatagan is the beach club that features a unique 800-square-meter river pool, which is surrounded by several pool cabañas as well as one- and two-level garden cabañas.

Landco SVP for leisure and tourism Patrick Villano intends to make Playa Calatagan Luzon's version of Boracay. "The property is being developed to capture both local and foreign visitors who wanted to experience Boracay, a premier island resort located in Aklan province, without the need to fly 345 kilometers just to get there," he says.



SEVERAL cogon-roofed cabañas where guests could dine or relax are now in place at Playa



LOCATED along both sides of the river pool are cabañas where swimmers could take refuge.

Villano adds that future residents and guests of Playa Calatagan could look forward to bars, restaurants (featuring local cuisine), souvenir shops and shopping kiosks.

Residential component

But while Playa Calatagan is being groomed as a premier events and holiday destination, some 62 hectares will be earmarked as residential component wherein over 900 lots with sizes between 250 and 500 sq m at P6,230 to P7,280 per sq m will be offered.

"Here, future residents would be able to enjoy masterplanned amenities such as the beach clubhouse, hilltop clubhouse, amphitheater park, central park and bamboo park and village reception/administration building," Ceballos.

According to him, Playa Calatagan's residential component is designed to appeal to families who want to enjoy the place's unspoiled beauty so Landco decided to highlight the rustic "feel" of the place as evidenced from the Asian-tropical architecture that they have chosen as the project's overall theme.

More similar projects

Villano also mentions Landco's entry into the leisure and tourism sector will soon usher more innovative projects similar to Playa Calatagan.

"Unlike some landlocked countries with no direct access to the ocean, the Philippines is blessed in the sense that one is never too far from any coastline or coastal resort. This accessibility, which is most ideal and convenient for many of us, has also prompted the influx of many visitors from other countries. With an increasing demand, we at Landco are more than willing to provide new developments similar to Playa Calatagan," he says.

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

A leaking house a financial drain, say feng shui experts

By Tessa R. Salazar

CAN'T SLEEP AT NIGHT lately because of the annoying sound from your dripping faucet or roof? Well, here's more reason to lose sleep over those leaks. Feng shui experts believe that leaking roofs, faucets and pipes may symbolize your wealth draining from your hands.

On the other hand, they stress that bringing water in represents bringing wealth in as well. So, all water features in the yard should flow toward the house, to bring money to the occupants' pockets.

Tampa-based feng shui consultant Nicole Noles said water symbolizes wealth. Anytime water leaves the house, through toilets, washing machines and the like, also symbolizes wealth "leaving" the household.

Bothersome leaks

Whether you believe in feng shui or not, it pays to do something about those bothersome leaks. Roberto Tseng Vicente, US-based traditional feng shui consultant, said house occupants just need to be practical-minded to realize the physical damages brought about by water leaks in the house. "Be sure to check and repair water leakages at home, such as those in the roof, toilet, kitchen, bathroom and the laundry room."

"Water faucets leaking, garden hoses lying around dripping water and leaking toilet bowls all lose money because you have to pay the water that you do not use. That's how practical feng shui is, it is based on life experience and not with the help of magic," says Vicente, who uses what he calls QiPi.

Noles, who offers feng shui consultations in southwest Florida, as well as Swedish, Thai and craniosacral massages, Reiki and shamanic healing and tarot readings, urges that any leak discovered in the house should be fixed right away. At the same time, however, she advises households to check their budgets to see where the financial "leak" is.

"I generally find also that in a house with many leaks, the occupants are spendthrifts with credit cards and petty expenses, and do not keep track of them well. Keeping all receipts for a month can be a big eye opener," says Noles, who studied feng shui under James Moser in San Diego with the Feng Shui Warehouse in 2000.

Vicente defines QiPi as an ancient practice of environmental planning that harmonizes nature and the environment to increase opportunities for success, vitality and prosperity.

Noles tells homeowners to keep lids down for toilets and sinks to keep the money in, lifting the lid up or the drains open only when occupants are getting rid of waste.

Floods

Vicente, who is also an industrial and chemical engineering graduate, says city environmental planning is one of the ancient specialties of feng shui that can be implemented to any size city or locality.

He adds that the consequence of a city confronted by a flooding problem is a "paralyzed" constituency that is unable to be productive. And though the "bayanihan" value of Filipinos surfaces during floods, money still "flows out" and financial opportunities are lost for those affected.

According to Vicente, here are other environmental observations affecting every individual:

Dirty rivers or canals can directly contribute to degradation of properties that stand beside them, especially if these rivers overflow during heavy rains. So, those who plan to reside in these properties may need to think again.

Vicente says house-hunters need to consider the natural condition of the locality, and ascertain how this will enhance and support the family's daily activities, and even their business.

Nature's fury

"But what if a storm or typhoon with a force that not even the most disciplined feng shui follower can avert is approaching your area? The most important issue there is safety," Vicente stresses.

"We can evacuate local areas for specific storms, but we've got to address issues such as clean energy, pollution and trash disposal now. Good feng shui addresses the regional environment as well as individual houses," Noles says.

She adds that feng shui, at its core, is the art of living in harmony with everything. Indeed, a house and all its occupants are always intertwined with the Earth and all its elements—the state of one can either be the cause or effect of the other.

Ayala Greenfield celebrates flowers, nature

AYALA GREENFIELD ESTATES RECENTLY hosted an open house affair celebrating flowers and nature as its theme. Coinciding with Laguna's much-awaited flower festival, the whole-day event brought together lot owners and potential buyers in a colorful, bloom-filled venue, where guests were treated to a sumptuous lunch and a series of workshops on how to design, landscape and care for the perfect garden.

A prime residential community that offers breathtaking views of Mt. Makiling, Laguna de Bay and the Tagaytag Ridge, Ayala Greenfield Estates boasts of exclusive first-class amenities, and an 18-hole championship golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr.

Ayala Greenfield is also blessed with clear mountain weather. The warm sun and gentle breeze bathing its sloping hills are friendly to plants, allowing residents to grow a wide variety of blossoms all year round. The land, however, differs from what may be found in lower areas, and thus requires a slightly modified brand of care.

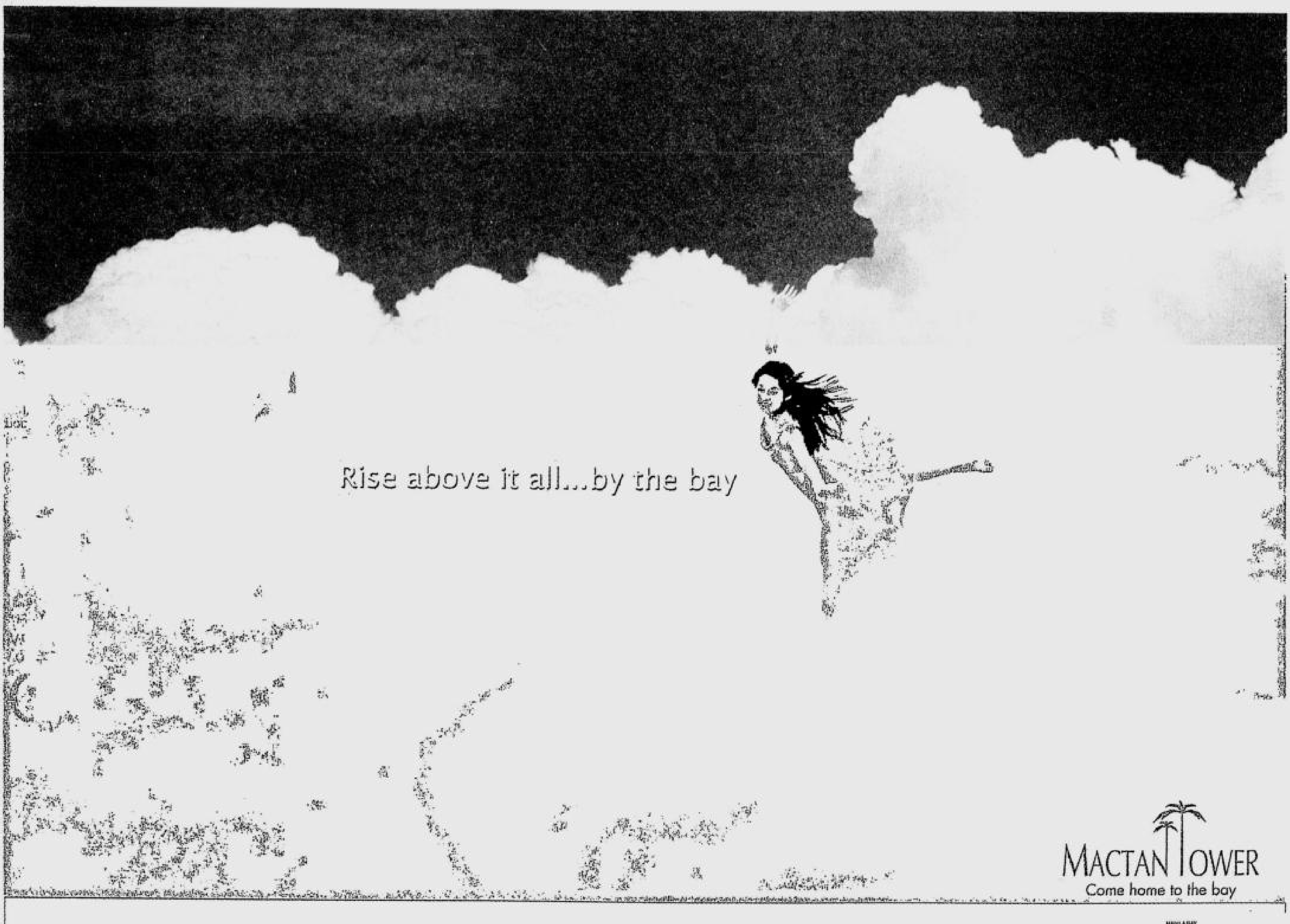
To help lot owners and aspiring gardeners adjust, Ayala Land invited experts to teach guests a thing or two about Ikebana, pottery, flower arrangement, orchid care and bonsai care.

As brokers conducted presentations with prospects interested in availing of their own space within the sprawling, nature-friendly areas of Ayala Greenfield Estates, others gravitated toward booths covered with multihued displays of flowers, pots and other garden accessories. The scent of flowers filled the room as guests eagerly listened to the advice of some of the country's foremost plant and pottery experts.

Pottery

At the pottery booth, Jon Pettyjohn delighted the audience by forming containers

AYALA/ B8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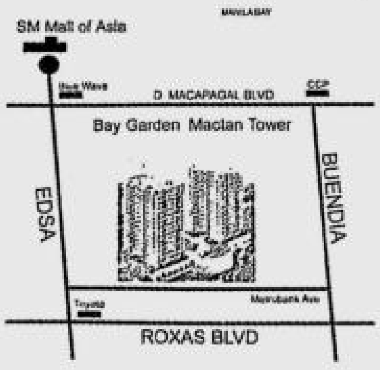

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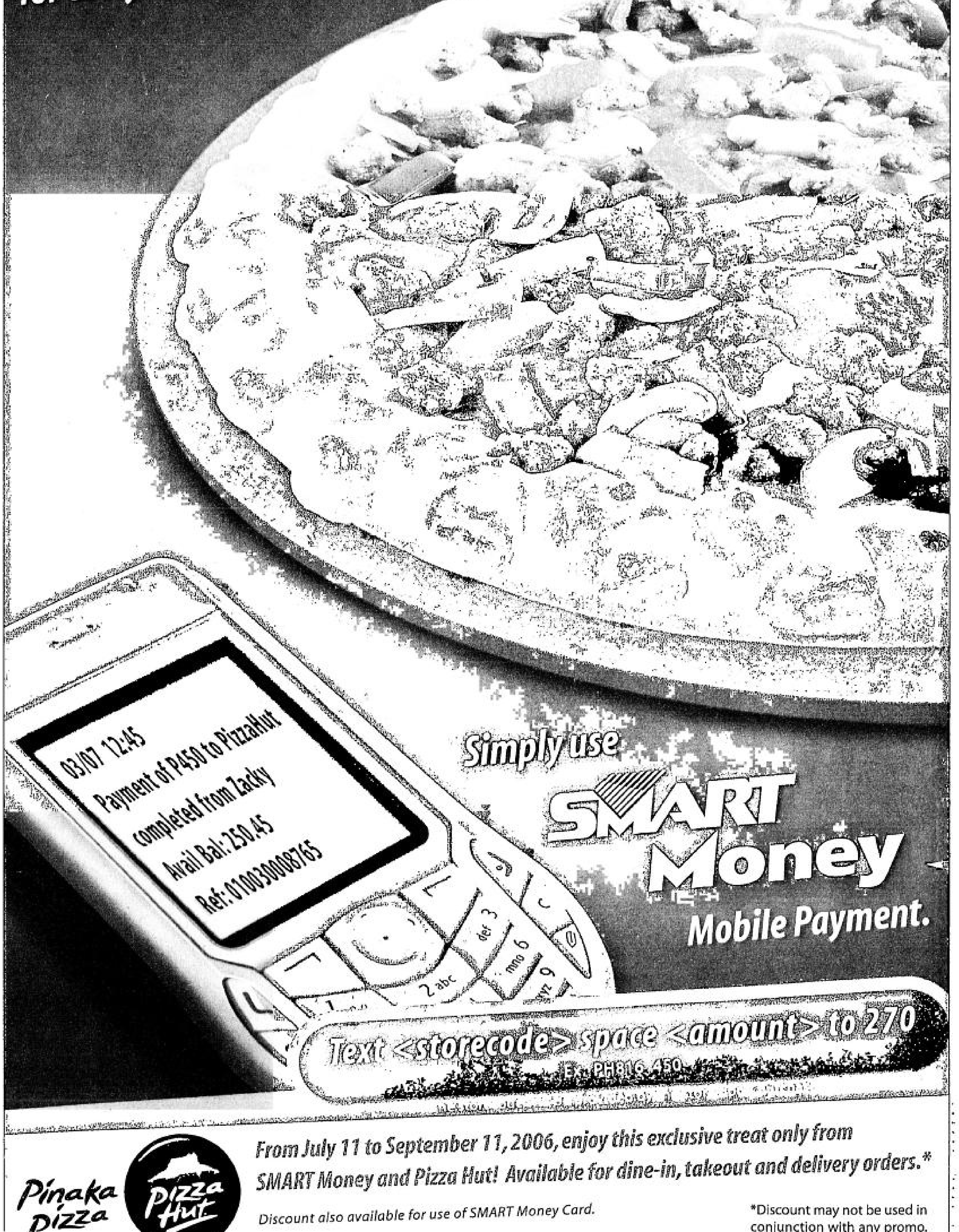
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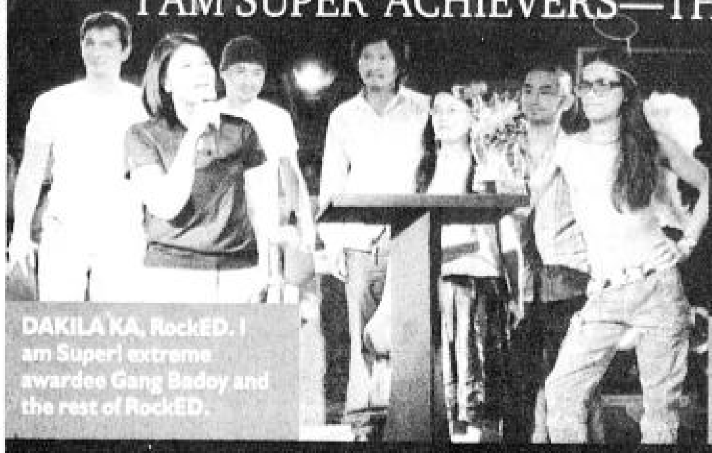
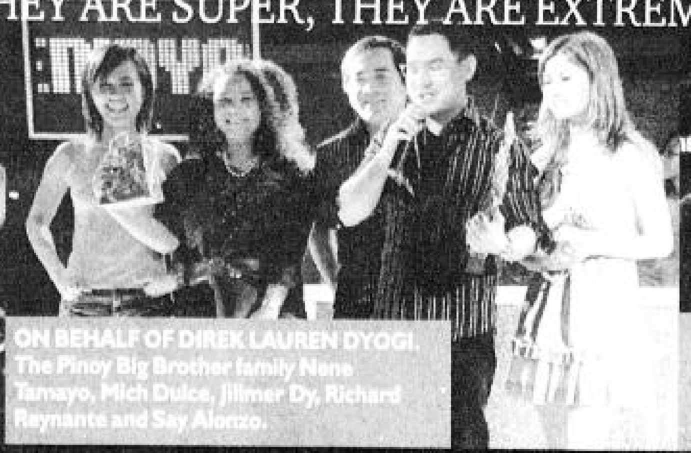
Promo duration: July 11 to September 11, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3237, Series of 2006.

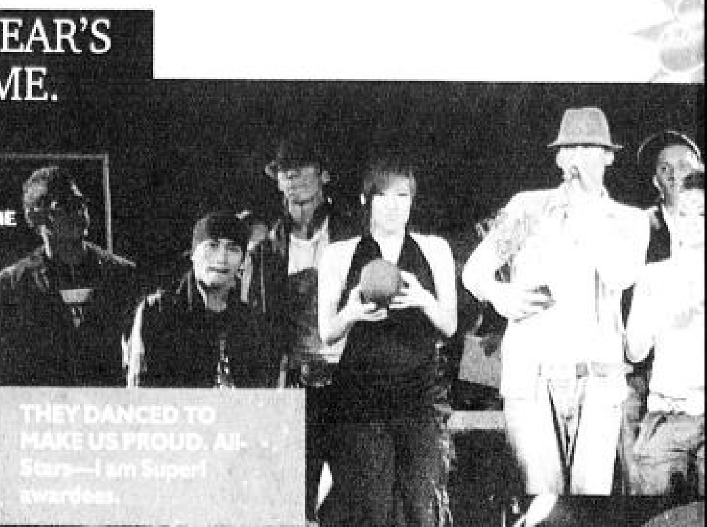
DAHIL SMART TAYO

Laging sulit ang pizza sa Pizza Hut

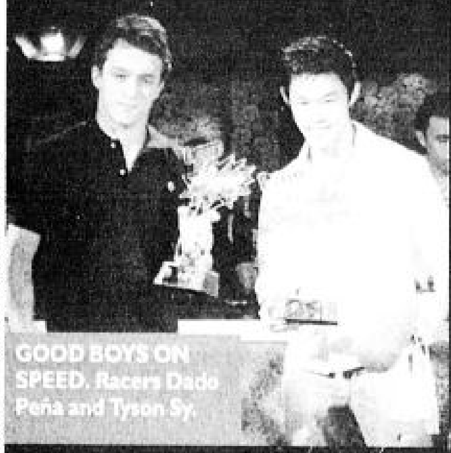
SUPER! AND ASTRING-O-SOL ICE EXTREME RECOGNIZE THIS YEAR'S 'I AM SUPER' ACHIEVERS—THEY ARE SUPER, THEY ARE EXTREME.

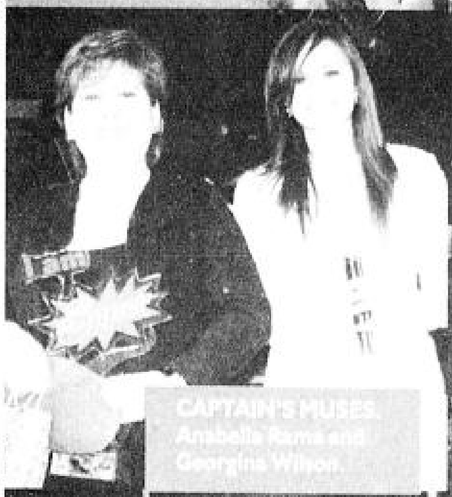

DAKILA KA, RockED. I am Super! extreme awardee Gang Badoy and the rest of RockED.


ON BEHALF OF DIREK LAUREN DYOGI. The Pinoy Big Brother family Nene Tamayo, Mich Dulce, Jilmer Dy, Richard Reynante and Say Alonzo.


THEY DANCED TO MAKE US PROUD. All-Stars—I am Super! awardees.

Welcome to the extreme world of Super!


GOOD BOYS ON SPEED. Racers Dado Peña and Tyson Sy.


CAPTAIN'S MUSES. Anabelle Rama and Georgina Wilson.

SUPER! Tim Yap in Rubyanne Panlilio Super! shirt and Mich Dulce jacket.

By Gino de la Paz
Photos by Rodel Roton, Rudy Esperas, Daniel Tan and Pam Pastor

AFTER THREE YEARS OF publishing a weekly youth-centric section, you do wind up with some insight as to when and how subculture transforms into pop culture. It's safe to say then that Super—your Super!—has gradually come to mean what it does today: A printed state of mind that celebrates anything and everything young, fun, and slightly risky. Now, we have come to occupy a space in the media that resembles an alternate universe of pop enthusiasts with a remarkable range of interests and talents.

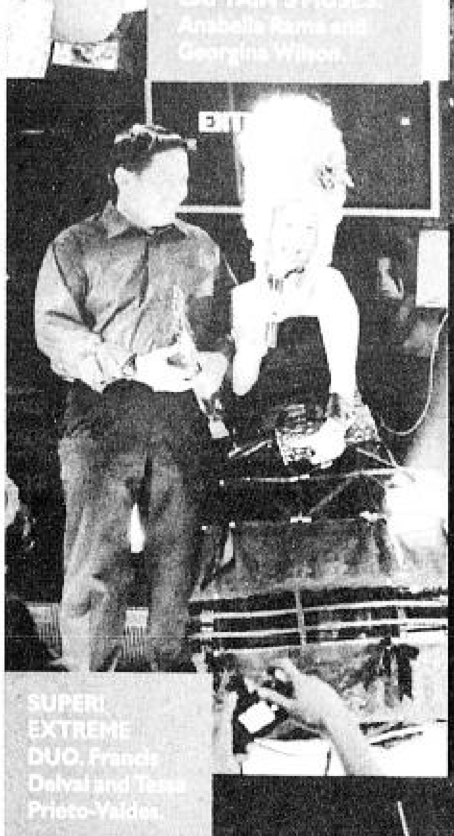
It's with the same never-say-die persistence that we continue to search for creativity among Manila's tribes and give them rightful props for fighting the good fight, doing so in mad style. Last Wednesday night marked Year 3 of our amazing editorial journey. So amid candy-colored bean bags, burning klieg lights, and an assortment of famous creatures (and the about-to-be), we gave tight bear hugs to a few trailblazers who have become crossover success stories in their own right.

From boxers, racers, and mountain climbers to vegetarians, bag designers, and breakers, all our Super awardees had these in common: world-class talent, amazing résumés, and yes, true Pinoy passion. I mean, where else can you see peeps in pink bouffant wigs or angel wings handing out trophies to showbiz moms and NGO volunteers? Nowhere but Super! What a way to go, *diba*?

Now, as we carry on with our weekend message of Style, Urban Living, Pop Culture, Entertainment, and Recreation, we will also keep on watching raw talent evolve. Who the heck knows? One day we could award you. (Yup, *ikaw*!) After all, those who read us—and understand us best—are the ones at the forefront of their creative fields.

That said, it's time to let the lovin' begin, people. Or rather, let it continue. Here's to Super Year 4 and beyond! Hoohah!

Super special thanks to Embassy Super Club and our awesomely awesome friends at Astring-O-sol Ice Extreme for making the party happen. We Super heart you! *Awww …*


SUPER! EXTREME DUO. Francis Delvai and Tessa Prieto-Valdes.

OH MY DARLING. Darling Lavinia and David Milan.

EXTREME CRUSH. Nicole Hernandez and Pepe Diokno.

SHOPPING—IT'S A GUY THING. Jenni Epperson and John Joe Joseph.

PREVIEW PERFECT. Pauline Suaco-Juan, Isha Andaya and JM Rodriguez.

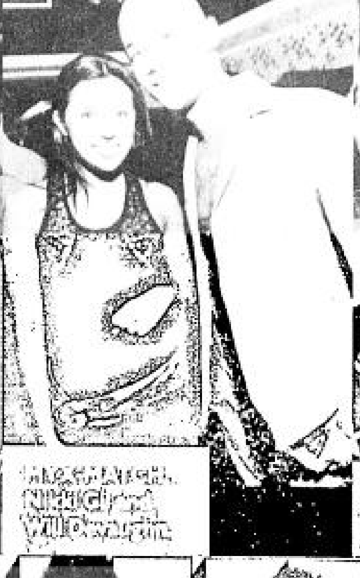
NAVIGATING 24/7. Teddy and [illegible]

FEARLESS FUN. [illegible]

[illegible]

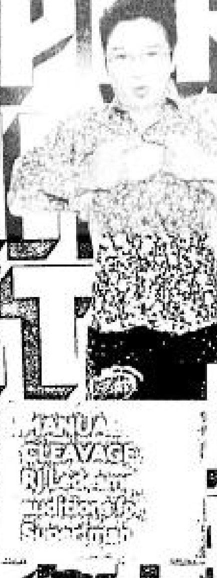
[illegible]

PINOY PARISIAN. [illegible] and Michel in vacation mode.


MIX & MATCH. Nikki Gil and Will Devaughn.

THE FRENCH PARTY. [illegible]

[illegible]


MANUAL CLEAVAGE. [illegible]

SUPER! SUPER! [illegible] Dy and Gino [illegible]

MTV SUMMIT. Bebeth Timbol and [illegible] Claudio.

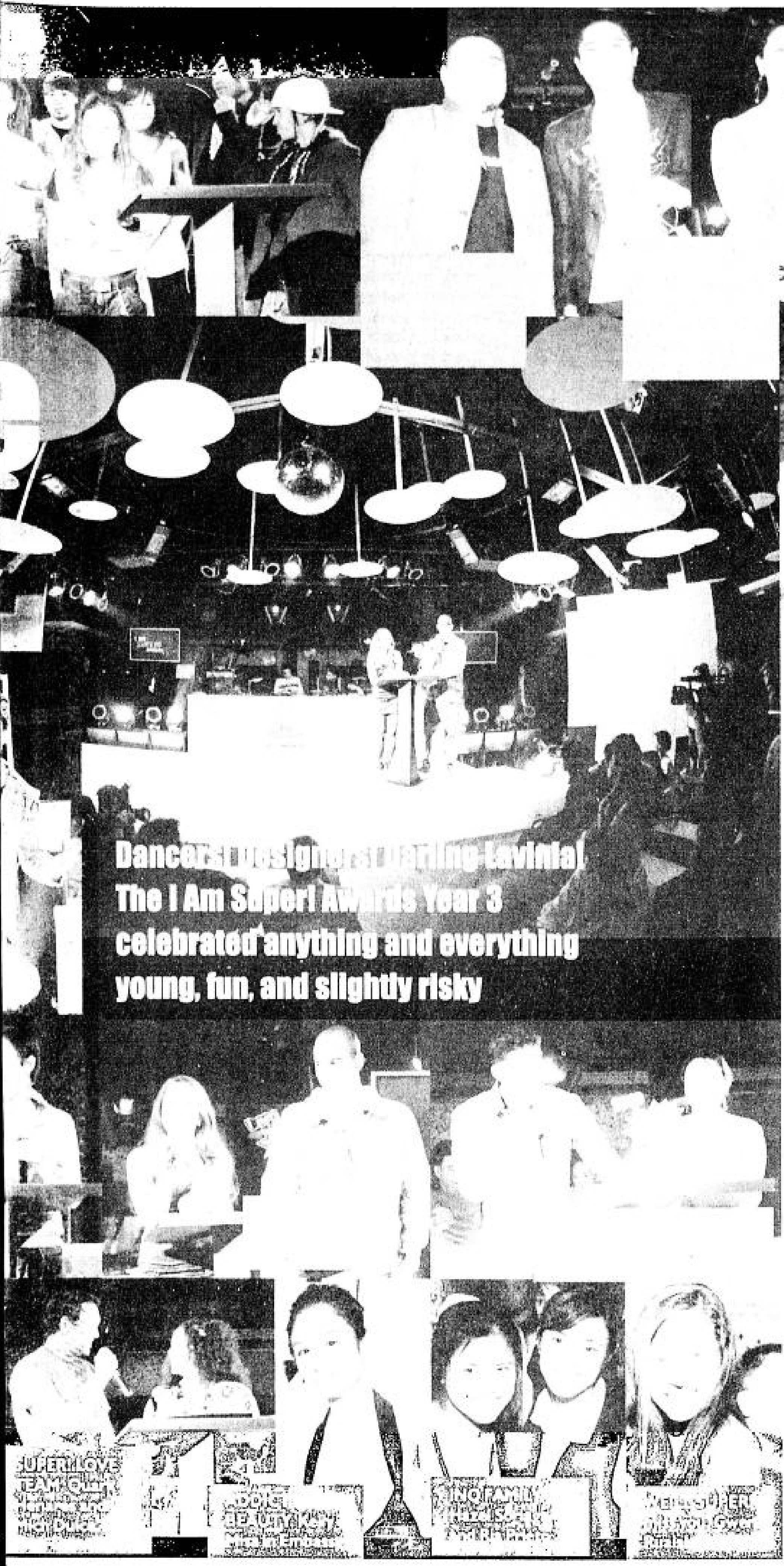
EXTREME BODIES. Jappo Salomon, Veronica Scott and [illegible] Concepcion.

SUPER! BEAT MASTERS. Jimmy Muna and Kris Lawrence.

GET SUPER! GET HAPPY. [illegible]

STYLE SETTERS. [illegible] and Paolo Reyes.

WE LOVE YOU ALL SUPERS OF THIS UNIVERSE! [illegible]



Dancers! Designers! Darling Lavinia! The I Am Super! Awards Year 3 celebrated anything and everything young, fun, and slightly risky

Breakfast in Bed

Waking up in bed to the smell of coffee and toast right beside you is one of life's little pleasures. And it tastes even better when you don't have to hurry enjoying it.

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Philippine Idol

The phenomenon begins July 29 Saturday 8 PM

PHILIPPINE IDOL NA!

ABC Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Kid's TV	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Wow Maling Mali		Ripley's Believe It Or Not		ABCinema					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Little Big Star		Komiks		Let's Go	Quizon Avenue		TV Patrol World	XXX		Aalog alog	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		Lost (Season II)		Lost (Season II)		Lost (Season II)		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	The Ultimate Fighter		The Contender (Season II)		Lost (Season II)		Numb3rs (Season 2)		Supernatural (Season I)	
Cartoon Network	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	The Road Runner Show	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien/Planet Sketch/Camp Lazlo/Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy		Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy/Cow & Chicken/Pet Alien/Camp Lazlo		The Simpsons		Batman Beyond: Return Of Joker/Hammerboy/Scooby Doo & The Witch's Ghost/My Scene		Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy (8:45PM)	The Simpsons	The Batman	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Gundam Seed		Aqua Teen Hunger Force/Sealab 2021
Cinema One	Wait A Minute, Kapiling Mahal				Feng Shui				Boiz Of U				Oras Oras Araw Araw				Azucena		
Cinemax	And Justice For All (2:25PM)				Feeling Minnesota			Batman (5:55PM)				Battlestar Galactica Mission 7	The Last Samurai					Crash Landing (11:15PM)	
CNN		World News		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News		World News	World Sport	World News				Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Crime/Suspense		Mastermind	Forensic Files	Profiler		Psychic Detectives	Body Of Evidence	What Should You Do?		Law & Order	Prison Break	Bones	Prison Break	Vegas CSU	E-Ring	Way Of The Gun			
Discovery Channel				Altered Statesmen		Power Zone				Discovery Encore		On The Run		I Shouldn't Be Alive		A Haunting		Perfect Disaster	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire/Art Attack/Buddy	Totally Spies Double Episodes		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch/Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Martin Mystery/That's So Raven	Buzz On Maggie/Lilo & Stitch/Emperor's New Groove	Phil Of The Future/Emperor's New School	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven/Emperor's New School	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		NBA Anthology	NBA Anthology	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	The Open Championships 2006 Highlights	The Open Championships 2006 3rd Rd			15th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup			2006 FIBA Asian Stankovic Cup Prelim				Major League Baseball Friday			
ETC		Joan Of Arcadia 2		Friends 10	Will & Grace 4	Veronica Mars 2		The O.C.3		Beach Girls		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Trading Spouses		Today Show - 1 Hour Version		Dateline		Showdog Moms & Dads		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One	Blowout 2		Inside the Actor's Studio		ER		NBC Nightly News	WSJR
EWTN	Visionaries, Mystics & Stigmatists	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Knights Of St. Michael	Catholic Compass		Life Is Worth Living	The World Over Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Word Was Made Flesh	Voices On Virtue	Backstage	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business	Forbes On Fox	Cashin' In
GMA 7	Startalk				Wish Ko Lang (4:20 PM)		Fantastikids (5:30 PM)		Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos (7:20 PM)		Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho	Imbestigador (9:05 PM)			Hokus Pokus (10:20PM)		Showbiz Stripped
Hallmark Channel		Strong Medicine (3:15PM)		Follow The Stars Home (4:05 PM)			Back To You And Me				Love Comes Softly (7:20 PM)			Merlin			Merlin (10:35PM)		
HBO				Jury Duty (4:15 PM)			Groundhog Day (5:45 PM)				Cellular			House Of Wax (2005)			Campaign 24 NewCanaan,CA		
Hero TV	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki	Gransazers	Shaman King	Bucky the Incredible	Jester The Adventurer	Murumet	The X-Treme Team	Love Hina	Fruits Basket	Lost Universe	Hero TV Theatrixx	Babel II	II OVA	Captain Kuppa	Mon Colle Knights	Shaider	Mask Rider Ryuki
IBC 13		Home Shopping Network		Noypis Peacekeeper	Auto Review	Getz Mo Getz Ko		Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arris		Blizzg		Pilipinas Sabong Sports			
JackTV	X-Men	JLU	The Batman	Evolver	Filter	Bottomline		Raw				Distraction	Banzai	Last Comic Standing		South Park	South Park	Drawn Together	Crank Yankers
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	HGTV Special		Sheila Bridges: Designer Living	Radical Sabbatical	Simply Wine Andrea Immer	Inside Dish	My Country, My Kitchen	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		Merge		Style Star	I Do Diaries		E! Extra: Hats Pride Of Fame	
MTV Philippines										Laguna Beach	Bo & Ocean								
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5	Radio MYX	Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	MYXILOG
National Geographic		The Living Edens: Temple Of The Tigers		No Borders Wetback				Animals Like Us Language		Touch Taiwan: Action Asia Challenge		The Living Edens: Anamalai Indian Elephant Mountain		Beauty Queen Zhang Ziyi Creative Asian Beauty		Beauty Queen: Contenders & Beauty Queens		No Borders Shooting Under Fire	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Alsp		Kamao		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Youth Voice-Debate		CSIS Member's Hour		Isa Hour On NBN		A.S.K.		Kasada Kontra Krimen	
Net 25	INC Chronicles	Euromaxx	Auto Motor Sport	The Planet	Tomorrow Today	Ang Tamang Daan		Net 25 Report weekend edition	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Tribe	Quadriga	INC Chronicles E	INC Chronicles F	Ang Pagbubunyag		Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Net 25 Report weekend edition	DWTV Journal Weekend Edition	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Just For Kicks	Catscratch	Avatar: Legend Of Aang	Danny Phantom	Toptic Kid's Choice Awards	SpongeBob SquarePants	Just For Kicks	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	The Brothers Garcia	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Wayway				Ang Mamatay ng Dahil Sa Iyo				Hataw Avit Pinoy				Bakit Bughaw Ang Langit				Infection
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Galaxy Angels		Posh		Fans Kita		Aytil Robot		Day Off		Sabado Showdown				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Go Negosyo		Biyaheng Langit	Ride, Eat, Travel	Man & Machine		Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers)		Blind Justice		CSI Miami		Saturday Night Playhouse				South Border	
SBN 21								Barangay Linang Tribu Chess		Sony Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Kaliwanagan		Shepherds Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports			EIVB Men's Zagreb, Croatia		GWS 29-2006	WNBA '06 All-Star Game New York, NY				Badminton: 2006 JVC Open				Superfights: A. Cebreros vs. J. Aguirrega					
Sports Plus		FIFA World Cup '06 Match 64 Finals						World Poker Tour Hollywood Home				Ultimate Fighting Championship Knockouts		Golf Today		John Deere Classic Highlights		Cialis Western Open Highlights	
Star Movies				White Noise (3:50 PM)			The Sixth Sense				The Final Power (7:20 PM)			The Long Weekend			Submerged		
Star World		Rockstar Supernova		Miami Vice		Gillette 2006 Fifa World Cup		Less Than Perfect	The Drew Carey Show	Life As We Know It		TNA Xplosion		World's Most Amazing Videos		Enterprise		Road Trip	
Studio 23								Sports TV	Survivor Panama Exile Island		Wickedly Perfect (7:20 PM)	7th Heaven (8:10 PM)			Studio 23 Presents				

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

I Am Super! Alert! Alert! Alert! Alert! Alert! Alert! Alert! Alert!

____ is Super! Awards

By Pepe Diokno

A FEW DAYS AGO, WE PRESENTED twelve I Am Super! awards to individuals who rock their respective industries to the extreme. These awardees were Manny Paquiao, racers Michelle Bumgarner, Tyson Sy, and Dado Peña, the Philippine Everest Team, filmmaker Raya Martin, designer Amina Aranaz, and design house Team Manila. Awards also went to photographer Paolo Pineda, PETA advocate Isabel Roces, Super group RockEd Philippines, "Big Brother" director Lauren Dyogi, TV superhero Richard Gutierrez, and dance group, the All Stars.

Now, boys and girls, lads and gals, dudes and—you get it—we want to know who you give your I Am Super! awards to. Yup, we're accepting nominations to this year's I Am Super! Awards. (Hey, Super generation, this is your awards as much as it is ours.)

In a bit, we'll tell you how to send in your nom's. But first, here's a primer:

Who can I nominate?

"I Am Super!" awardees come from different backgrounds and fields. We don't believe in putting them in boxes.

Nominate any Filipino who's made a change in his or her field. Nominate any Filipino who's changed your life lately. Nominate any Filipino you think rocks the world.

When can I nominate?

Since there are no restrictions on who your nominees are, we know it's a daunting task just to think of people.

So we're giving you a head start. The nomination dive will formally open within the next few days. Keep reading Super for updates.

How can I nominate?

It's simple. Memorize this line: "________ is Super because he/she rocks the world of ________!", and send it to us. For example: "Spongebob Squarepants is Super because he rocks the world of square pants!"

We're opening text and web channels. We'll make it really easy for you to get your nom's in. (If you've got ideas already though, you can start sending your nominations to superawards@gmail.com.)

What happens next?

After we get your nominations, we will tally them and award the top Super!s according to you.⁺ We will present these awards at the annual Super Bazaar, which is set for the end of August.

After that, world peace.

So start thinking over your nominations! Do it in between classes, over dinner, in the bathroom, and before you sleep. Do it baby, do it, down on the beach. Do it baby, do it, down on the street.

Cheers to the Super generation!

Remember, you can start sending your nominations to superawards@gmail.com.

Are you ready to party to the extreme?

NEW ASTRING-O-SOL ICE EXtreme is offerning 100,000 each to five lucky student organization from various schools to mount an "extreme" party event either inside or outside the school.

Dubbed as the "Extreme Party Challenge," the competition is open to all bonafide college/university organizations for the school year 2006-2007. The winning student organization gets 200,000.

To join, the student organizations must submit their profile, history and past projects, officers and contact numbers, membership profile, financial statement and concept paper of proposed "extreme" event for NEW Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme. The concept paper should contain overall party concept, program and timelines.

Astring-O-Sol
Ice
Xtreme

All entries and supporting documents must be submitted to Stingray Advertising at Room 426, Regina Building, Escolta, Manila. They can also be emailed to aosicextreme@yahoo.com.ph. Deadline for submission of entries is on July 25, 5p.m.

The proposed event must center overall creative handle "extreme" which is defined as breakthrough, revolutionary, cut-through and excellent. It should also creatively promote NEW Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme and its benefit of "fighting morning breath."

New Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme is the latest revolutionary mouthwash from GlaxoSmithKline. It has a clinically-proven time release antibacterial compound (chlorhexidine) that helps fight morning breath by effectively working throughout the night.

Available in 60ml, 120ml, 250ml and 360ml bottles, NEW Astring-O-Sol Ice Extreme comes in a cool lemon lime flavor for a total blast of freshness in the mouth.

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3-4pm, July 22
Chef's Center
Homeworld North Edsa

3-4pm, July 29
Chef's Center
SM Mall of Asia

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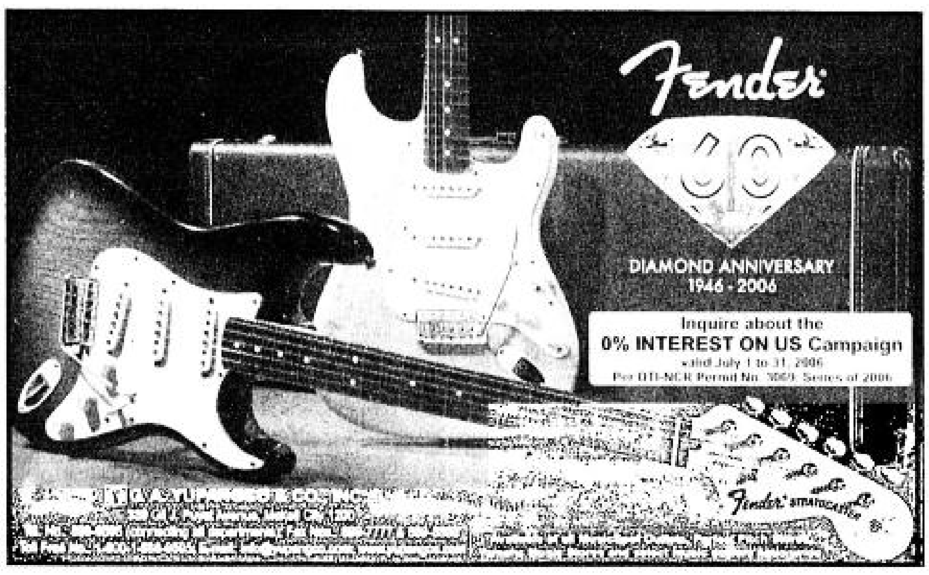
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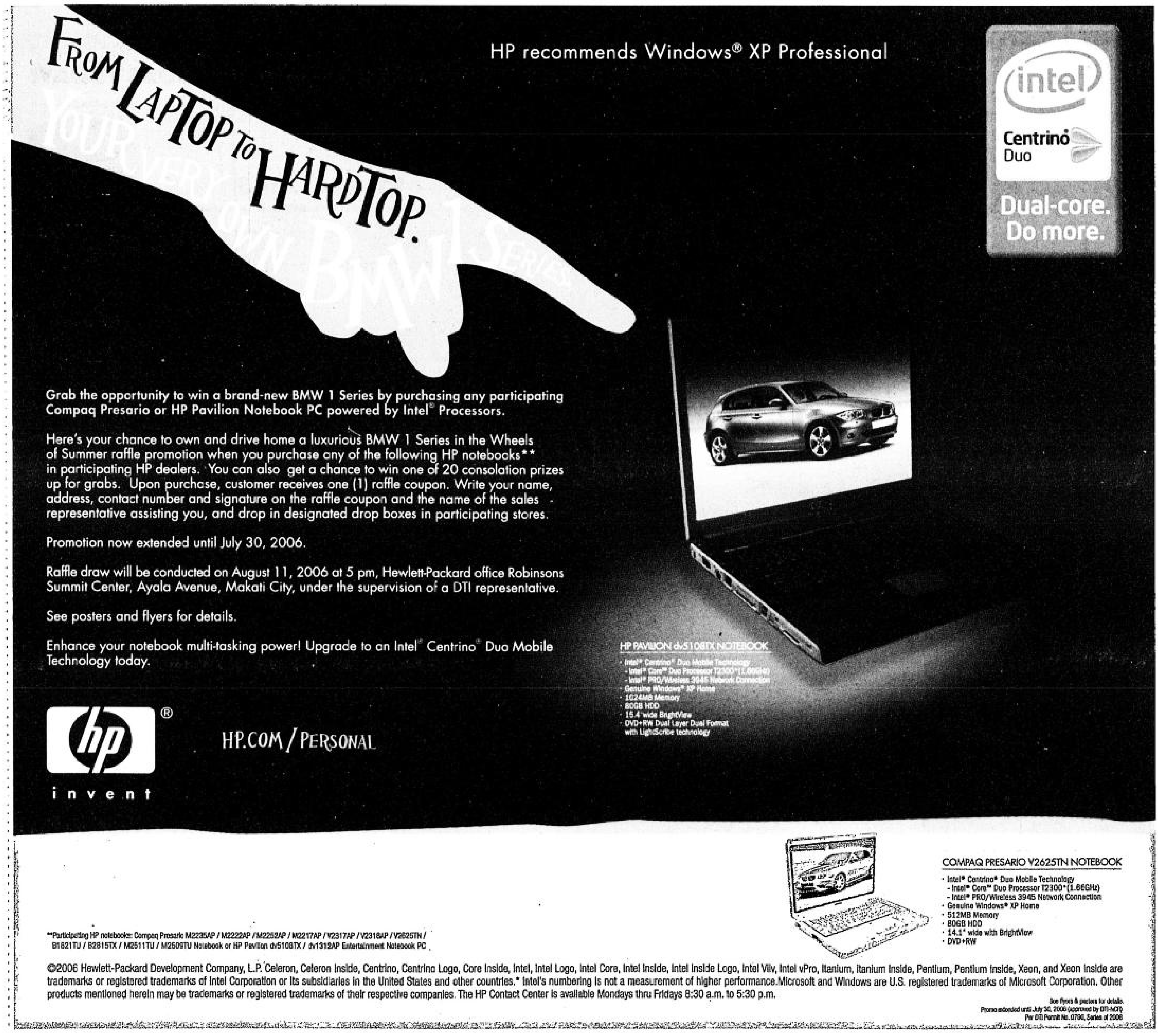
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Here's your chance to own and drive home a luxurious BMW 1 Series in the Wheels of Summer raffle promotion when you purchase any of the following HP notebooks** in participating HP dealers. You can also get a chance to win one of 20 consolation prizes up for grabs. Upon purchase, customer receives one (1) raffle coupon. Write your name, address, contact number and signature on the raffle coupon and the name of the sales representative assisting you, and drop in designated drop boxes in participating stores.

Promotion now extended until July 30, 2006.

Raffle draw will be conducted on August 11, 2006 at 5 pm, Hewlett-Packard office Robinsons Summit Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, under the supervision of a DTI representative.

See posters and flyers for details.

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- DVD+RW Dual Layer Dual Format with LightScribe technology

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COMPAQ PRESARIO V2625TN NOTEBOOK
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  - Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2300*(1.66GHz)
  - Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945 Network Connection
- Genuine Windows® XP Home
- 512MB Memory
- 80GB HDD
- 14.1" wide with BrightView
- DVD+RW

**Participating HP notebooks: Compaq Presario M2235AP / M2222AP / M2252AP / M2217AP / V2317AP / V2318AP / V2625TN / B1621TU / B2815TX / M2511TU / M2509TU Notebook or HP Pavilion dv5108TX / dv1312AP Entertainment Notebook PC

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See flyers & posters for details.
Promo extended until July 30, 2006 (approved by DTI-NCR)
Per DTI Permit No. 0790, Series of 2006

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

They're queer, they're here, we can get used to it

By Pam Pastor

THOM FILICIA AND I WERE sitting on the couch talking. Suddenly, Carson Kressley and Ted Allen barged in.

"Is he boring you to death?" Ted asked.

"We're here to save you!" Carson added.

Before I realized what was happening, Kyan Douglas was in the room too. He leaned over and said, "Don't believe anything he says, he's making up all these things in his head."

Then Jai Rodriguez walked in.

For a minute, it looked like a scene from a "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" episode. But we were not in my messy living room and, more importantly, I am not a straight guy.

The big 100

Armed with their own expertise—Thom for design, Carson for fashion, Kyan for grooming, Ted for food and wine and Jai for culture, the Fab Five have been transforming style-challenged and culture-hungry men for three years now. "We're not really changing or making them over, we're bringing out the best in them. We sort of do that to ourselves all the time," said Carson, who says he heeded Kyan's advice on getting a haircut.

The show recently celebrated its 100th episode ("Only 7,947,000 guys to go!" Carson said.) and according to the Fab Five, viewers are in for more fun. Fun meaning shows

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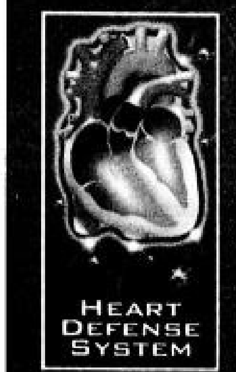
*Regular fried chicken only. Valid for dine-in and delivery, from 6:00pm until closing. ₱10.00 glass of Pepsi applicable with every half chicken order only. Not valid with other promos and discounts. Promo duration: July 1-31, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1634. Series of 2006.

Heart protection ENSURED

Recommended by 8 out of 10 doctors and meets standards of the American Heart Association and National Cholesterol Education Program



HEART DEFENSE SYSTEM

Every part of your system depends on your heart. It is in charge of pumping life-giving blood to your entire body, providing nourishment and oxygen to all the cells in your tissues, organs, muscles and bones.

Although your heart is a powerful organ, it can be damaged by disease and poor living habits which may weaken your body and hamper your blood circulation.

Ensure helps fight off the harmful effects of free radicals caused by these unhealthy habits. Its unique Heart Defense System creates a shield around your heart to help protect you from an attack. Combined with proper diet and regular exercise, Ensure makes sure nothing interferes with the way your heart works.

Ensure's other heart healthy benefits include:

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Low sodium - Helps control high blood pressure, prevents swelling or edema, and avoids fluid build-up

Low saturated fats - Helps prevent the heart-blocking effects of bad cholesterol and accumulation of harmful fatty deposits in your arteries

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Bridging the Gap from Hospital Care to Home Care

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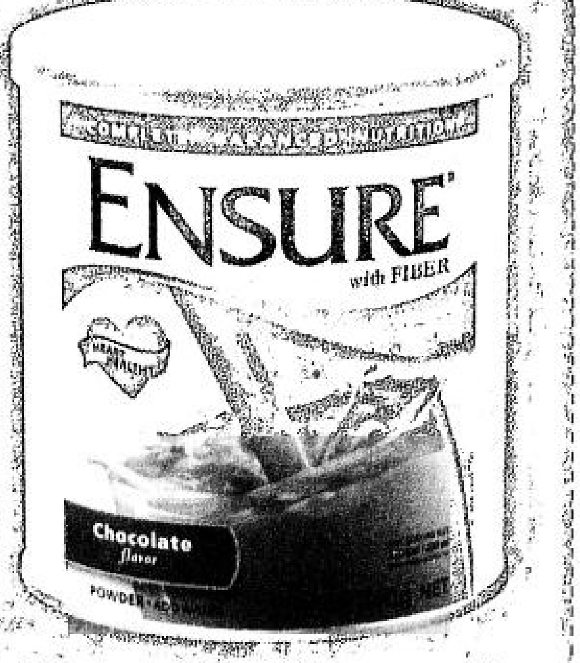
Available Mondays to Fridays, 8 am to 5 pm



Ensure your heart. Ensure your life.

Abbott
A Promise for Life

mercury drug
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ENSURE

Ensured savings with the Bantay Kalusugan Discount Coupon

☐ Save ₱50.00 on ENSURE Vanilla 400 grams

☐ Save ₱50.00 on ENSURE Chocolate 400 grams

☐ Save ₱100.00 on ENSURE Vanilla 1 kilogram

☐ Save ₱100.00 on ENSURE Chocolate 1 kilogram

Promo Mechanics

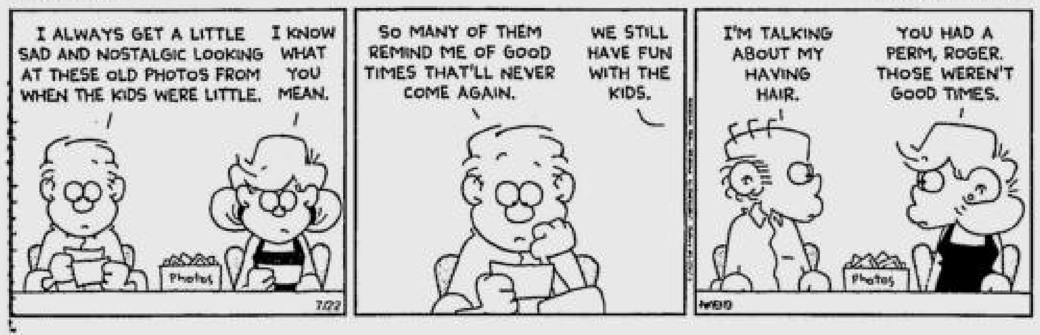
1. Present and surrender this coupon at any Mercury Drug store and avail of discounts on participating products.
2. This coupon is valid for a single purchase (per item) only.
3. This coupon is valid from July 15 to October 15, 2006.
4. This coupon shall not be used with any other discount privileges or promotions.
5. This coupon is valid for cash and credit card purchases.
6. Valid only if MDC approval is printed on this coupon.

Redeemable only at mercury drug stores nationwide

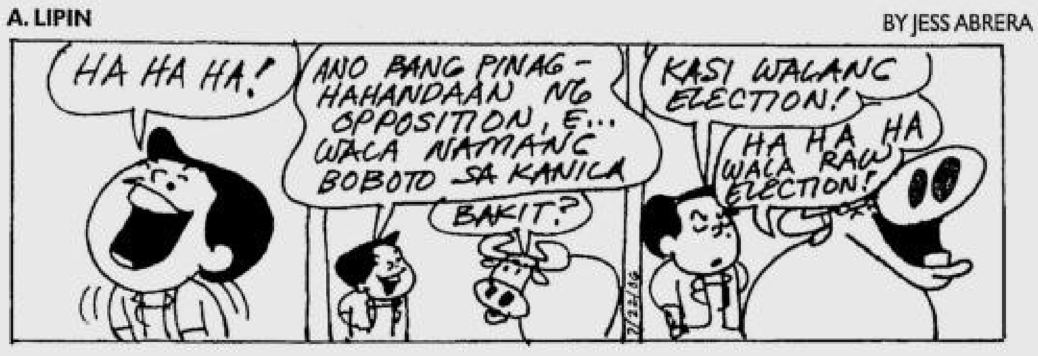
MDC APPROVAL
Ref: OVP-2006-CPN17
Date: July 5, 2006
Validity: July 15-October 15, 2006

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0799 s. 2006

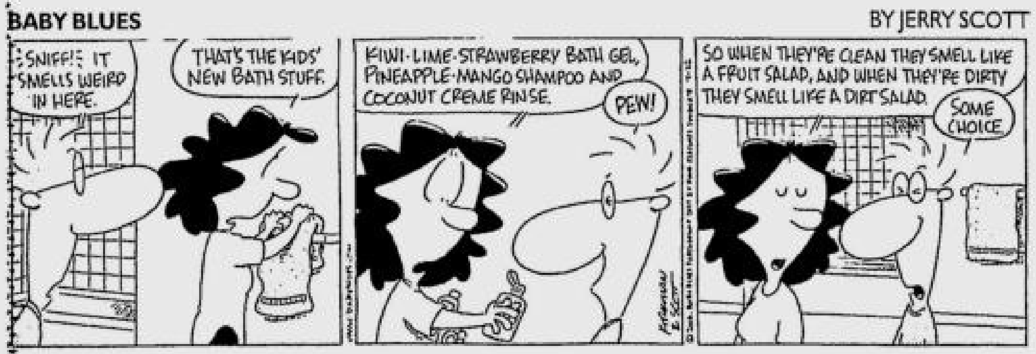
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


I ALWAYS GET A LITTLE SAD AND NOSTALGIC LOOKING AT THESE OLD PHOTOS FROM WHEN THE KIDS WERE LITTLE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.
Photos
7/22
SO MANY OF THEM REMIND ME OF GOOD TIMES THAT'LL NEVER COME AGAIN.
WE STILL HAVE FUN WITH THE KIDS.
I'M TALKING ABOUT MY HAVING HAIR.
YOU HAD A PERM, ROGER. THOSE WEREN'T GOOD TIMES.
Photos

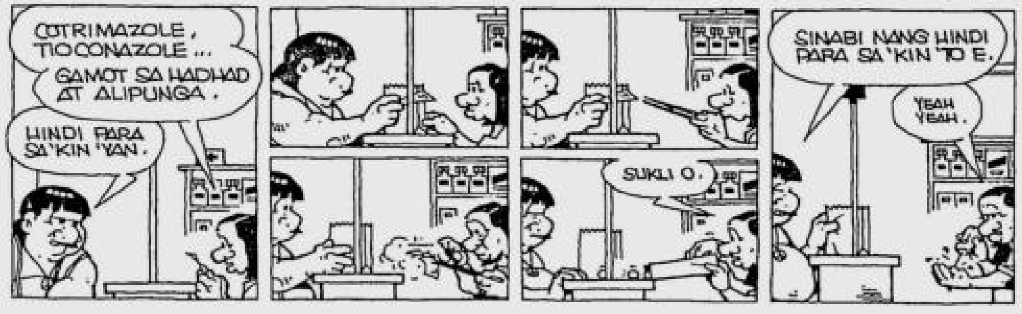
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HA HA HA!
ANO BANG PINAG-HAHANDAAN NG OPPOSITION, E... WALA NAMANG BOBOTO SA KANILA
BAKIT?
KASI WALANG ELECTION!
HA HA HA WALA RAW ELECTION!

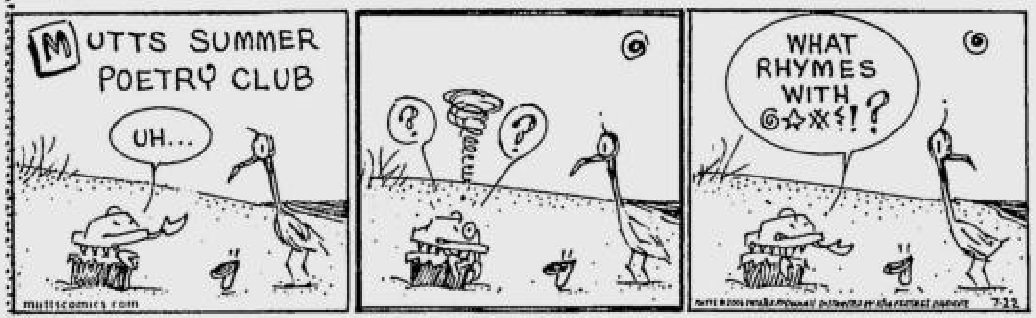
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


SNIFF! IT SMELLS WEIRD IN HERE.
THAT'S THE KIDS' NEW BATH STUFF.
KIWI-LIME-STRAWBERRY BATH GEL, PINEAPPLE-MANGO SHAMPOO AND COCONUT CREME RINSE.
PEW!
SO WHEN THEY'RE CLEAN THEY SMELL LIKE A FRUIT SALAD, AND WHEN THEY'RE DIRTY THEY SMELL LIKE A DIRT SALAD.
SOME CHOICE.

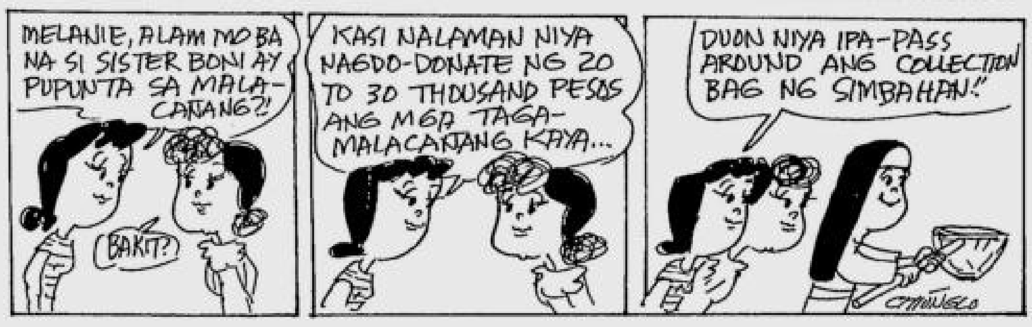
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


COTRIMAZOLE, TIOCONAZOLE...
GAMOT SA HADHAD AT ALIPUNGA.
HINDI PARA SA'KIN 'YAN.
SUKLI O.
SINABI NANG HINDI PARA SA'KIN 'TO E.
YEAH YEAH.

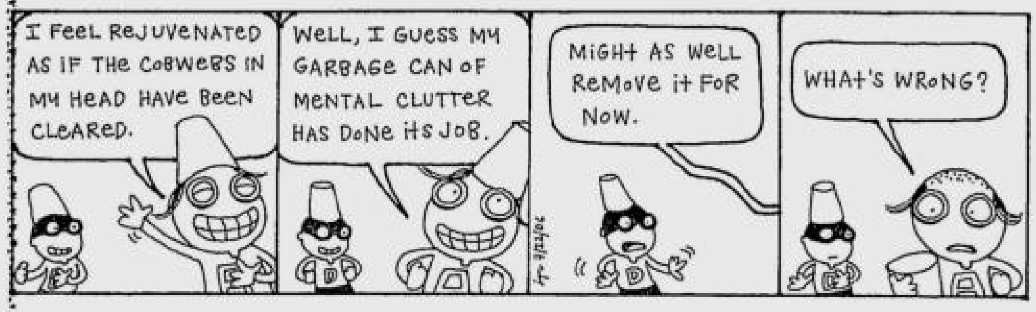
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MUTTS SUMMER POETRY CLUB
UH...
?
?
WHAT RHYMES WITH @☆✻$!?
muttscomics.com
7-22

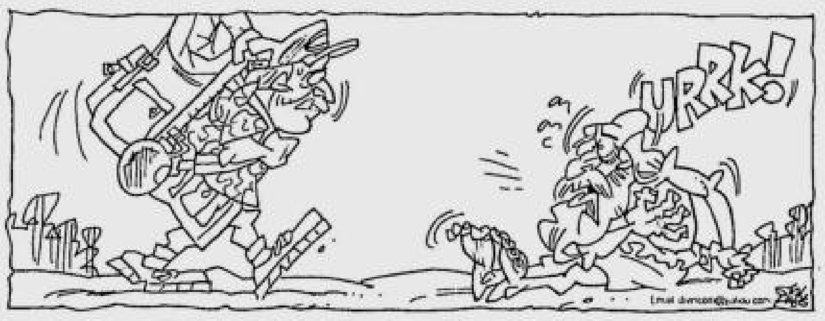
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, ALAM MO BA NA SI SISTER BONI AY PUPUNTA SA MALA-CAÑANG?!
BAKIT?
KASI NALAMAN NIYA NAGDO-DONATE NG 20 TO 30 THOUSAND PESOS ANG MGA TAGA-MALACAÑANG KAYA...
DUON NIYA IPA-PASS AROUND ANG COLLECTION BAG NG SIMBAHAN!"
CHIONGLO

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

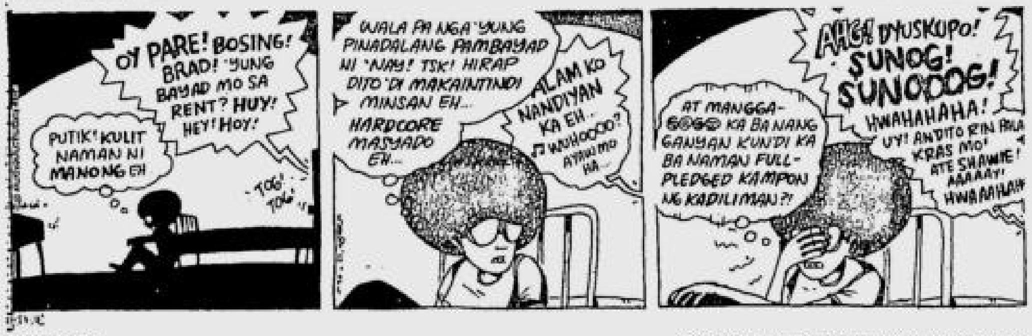

I FEEL REJUVENATED AS IF THE COBWEBS IN MY HEAD HAVE BEEN CLEARED.
WELL, I GUESS MY GARBAGE CAN OF MENTAL CLUTTER HAS DONE ITS JOB.
MIGHT AS WELL REMOVE IT FOR NOW.
WHAT'S WRONG?

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

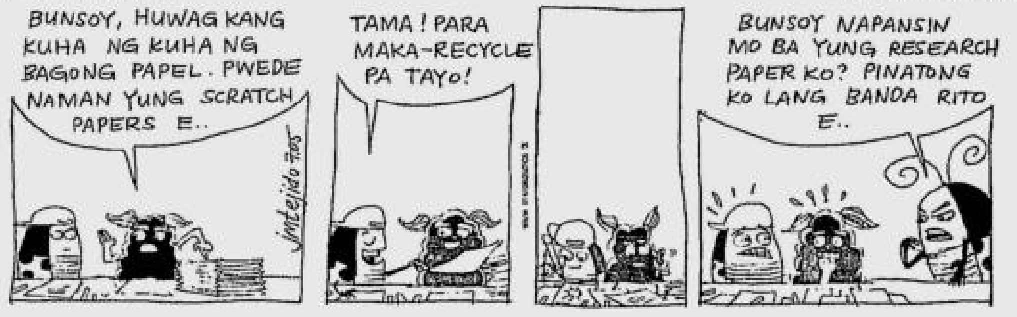

URRK!
E-mail: divincom@yahoo.com

NATAPOS NA RIN ANG APAT NA TAONG PAGLALAKBAY NI HANS PARA HANAPIN ANG HERMITANYONG MAY HAWAK SA KASAGUTAN KUNG ANO ANG "MEANING" NG BUHAY. KASO NGA LANG, BIGLA ITONG INATAKE SA PUSO AT NAMATAY

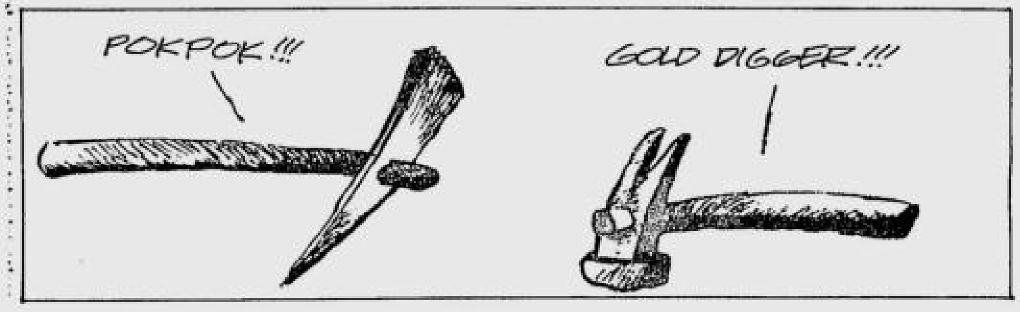
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


OY PARE! BOSING! BRAD! 'YUNG BAYAD MO SA RENT? HUY! HEY! HOY!
PUTIK! KULIT NAMAN NI MANONG EH
TOG! TOG!
WALA PA NGA 'YUNG PINADALANG PAMBAYAD NI 'NAY! TSK! HIRAP DITO 'DI MAKAINTINDI MINSAN EH... HARDCORE MASYADO EH...
ALAM KO NANDIYAN KA EH.. WUHOOOO? AYAW MO HA..
AHGH DYUSKUPO! SUNOG! SUNOGOG! HWAHAHAHA! UY! ANDITO RIN PALA KRAS MO! ATE SHAWIE! AAAAAY! HWAAAHAH
AT MANGGA-G@G@ KA BA NANG GANYAN KUN'DI KA BA NAMAN FULL-PLEDGED KAMPON NG KADILIMAN?!

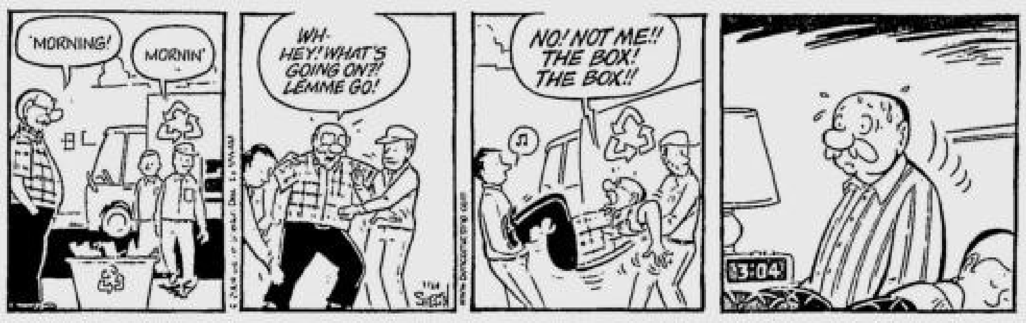
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


BUNSOY, HUWAG KANG KUHA NG KUHA NG BAGONG PAPEL. PWEDE NAMAN YUNG SCRATCH PAPERS E..
jmtejido '05
TAMA! PARA MAKA-RECYCLE PA TAYO!
BUNSOY NAPANSIN MO BA YUNG RESEARCH PAPER KO? PINATONG KO LANG BANDA RITO E..

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


POKPOK!!!
GOLD DIGGER!!!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


'MORNING!
MORNIN'
WH-HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON?! LEMME GO!
NO! NOT ME!! THE BOX! THE BOX!!
3:04

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Refused to yield
9 Horse hotel?
15 Possible to dodge
16 Sci-fi writer Ellison
17 Coal mine's combustible gas
18 Familiarize with a new setting
19 ___-Ude, Russia
20 Disinclination
22 Religious factions
24 Puts in order
25 Noisy clamor
26 Giving the once-over
28 Cat's wink
29 Depression
30 Car for hire
31 Goof up
32 Advance gradually
33 Sikorsky of helicopters
35 Extinct New Zealand birds
37 Suffer heartbreak
40 Fa-la connector
42 Peterson and Wilde
46 "___ in the Attic"
47 Portuguese saint
48 Shirley of "Laverne & Shirley"
49 Harbor craft
50 "Liebestraum" composer
52 The nays
53 Focal points
56 Elvis hit of 1958
57 Fine thread
58 Pest
60 Past, present and future
61 Storksbill
62 Bum chasers?
63 Constructors

DOWN
1 Spurner
2 Whammy look
3 Crusader's adversary
4 Distinct personalities
5 Forlorn
6 Slope conveyance
7 Mr. Fudd
8 Leave a jet
9 Resistant to violent impact
10 Small open pies
11 Opera showstopper
12 Mixed
13 Making a surgical incision
14 ___ Cordiale
21 Take away weapons
23 Hidden obstacle
27 Quality of superficial elegance
29 Scion
34 Friar's Club function
36 On the main
37 Bears witness (to)
38 Pair of rhymed lines
39 Cleanliness
41 Throat soother
43 Shylock's customer
44 Sustain once again
45 All ___ go!
50 Pry bar
51 More faithful
54 Instance
55 King's address
59 Anatomical pouch

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13	14
15								■	16					
17								■	18					
19				■	20			21						
22				23	■	24					■	25		
26					27	■	28			■	29			
30						■	31			■	32			
■	■	■	33			34	■	35		36		■	■	■
37	38	39		■	40		41	■	42			43	44	45
46				■	47			■	48					
49			■	50				51	■	52				
53			54						55	■	56			
57						■	58			59				
60						■	61							
62						■	63							

By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
7/22/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	L	C	■	M	S	N	B	C	■	I	P	O	D	S
A	I	L	■	A	I	O	L	I	■	P	O	D	I	A
L	E	A	■	S	T	R	I	N	G	A	L	O	N	G
C	U	S	A	C	K	■	P	E	T	N	A	M	E	S
■	■	S	T	O	A	T	■	M	O	E	N	■	■	■
F	A	C	E	T	■	I	D	A	■	M	S	D	O	S
R	E	L	■	S	R	T	A	■	D	A	K	O	T	A
A	T	O	M	■	F	I	R	S	T	■	I	W	O	N
I	N	W	A	R	D	■	E	A	S	E	■	N	E	D
L	A	N	C	E	■	A	S	P	■	M	E	S	S	Y
■	■	■	A	T	O	Z	■	P	R	I	N	T	■	■
S	H	E	R	I	D	A	N	■	I	N	G	R	I	D
T	I	M	E	R	E	L	E	A	S	E	■	E	N	O
A	L	I	N	E	■	E	L	L	E	N	■	A	X	L
N	O	R	A	D	■	A	L	E	R	T	■	M	S	T

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7/22/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You work for success. You want it. Your dynamic nature and courageous drive generally bring you what you want; however, your career has valleys and peaks, as you strive for a kind of perfection in something. Sometimes your energy is strong, and yet at other times, you hide. Exciting, fresh, new beginnings await you this year.
Birthdate of: Terence Stamp, actor; David Spade, actor; Edward Hopper, artist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Start gearing up for a fun month ahead. In the next six weeks, wonderful and flirtatious opportunities will come your way. You might also be more involved in working with children.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Home, family and real estate issues assume greater importance in your life in the next month. Discussions with parents and family members will be particularly significant.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Fasten your seat belts. The tempo of your days is about to accelerate. Short trips, shopping, conversations with siblings and running around doing errands keep you hopping!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You might be concerned with cash-flow issues in the next four weeks. You're contemplating a major purchase; plus you're watching your earnings.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): It's your birthday, dear Leo. Use the next four weeks to recharge your energy for the rest of the year. It's perfectly all right to put yourself first now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Lie low for the next month. As your birthday approaches, think about how you want your next year to be different (if at all). Make some resolutions.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): A very popular month ahead awaits you now. Accept all invitations. Enjoy parties and social occasions. This is a good time to reestablish connections with old friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The Sun is now at high noon in your chart, acting like a spotlight on you. This is why VIPs, parents, teachers and authority figures easily notice you. (They also respect you.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You would love to blow town now if you could. You want a change of scenery. You're also keen to learn now. (The next few weeks are a good time to sign up for a course.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Clarify matters connected with finances or resources that are held jointly with others. (If you want to raise money or borrow cash, the next few weeks are a good time to try.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You might feel a bit tired now because the Sun is as far away from your sign as it gets all year. It's going to stay there for the next four weeks. Don't push the envelope.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Act on your desire to get better organized at home and work. Tackle loose ends. De-clutter wherever possible.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

	7		3		2			
	9						2	8
		8	1			6		
3						7		9
8		4						2
		2			8	3		
1	3						6	
			7		5		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 7/22

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	1	7	9	2	6	4	3	5
6	3	5	7	4	8	1	9	2
4	9	2	5	1	3	7	6	8
7	2	3	4	9	1	5	8	6
1	5	4	6	8	2	9	7	3
9	8	6	3	7	5	2	4	1
2	6	9	1	3	4	8	5	7
3	7	1	8	5	9	6	2	4
5	4	8	2	6	7	3	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★

FRANCIS Chua and Super!'s Tim Yap

MCCANN Group Account Director Tey San Diego, Kris Aquino and James Yap

MCCANN Creative Council Mike Langton, Mike Thomas, Eric Einhorn, Ng Tian It, Jeremy Perrot, Prassoon Joshi

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MCCANN Asst. Creative Director Lisa Khan, Gigi Santiago, Derek Ramsey and Mitch So

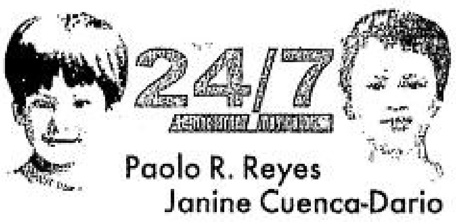
They cann party

THE UNQUESTIONED INDUSTRY leader for 19 years and running. Five-time winner in the 8-year history of the Agency of the Year Awards as sponsored by the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines (4A's). The big business-builder handling over 50 leader brands.

This is how they party.

At Fiamma, Advertising's young guns pulled all stops to welcome McCann World group. McCann folks from here and abroad raised their glasses as they entered another era of "creating demand." *Tim Yap*

Pinoy Idol worship



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

THE TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN more perfect. While the "Philippine Idol" aspirants are busy prepping their vocal chords in nervous anticipation of the show's much-awaited launch next Sunday, two mega-successful Filipino-American musicians will be making a quick stopover in Manila next week for their own respective concerts.

Nicole Scherzinger of the Pussycat Dolls and Apl.de.ap (aka Allan Pineda) of The Black Eyed Peas may have grown up far from our sunny little archipelago, but their inherent musical talent speaks volumes of their Filipino heritage.

Naturally, we're hardwired to be proud when a Pinoy performer shines in the global stage, particularly in the world of music. So for two consecutive nights, you can definitely expect swarms of fans to fill the Araneta Coliseum to the rafters for the "Black Eyed Peas: Monkey Business World Tour" on Thursday (July 27; 8 p.m.) and the "Pussycat Dolls: Live in Manila!" on Friday (July 28; 8:30 p.m.). For tickets, call 911-5555.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

July 22, Saturday

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change at Onstage Greenbelt; Tampisaw w/ Urbandub, Akafellas, & Bloomfields at Ateneo de Manila ISO Parking Lot; Urban Groove: R&B Night at Citrus; Bringin' Back the Bounce w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Mati; Salsa Night at Ricco-Renzo Café; House Groovin' at Mezze; Quench at Quisine; Sleepless w/ DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Club; Campusition Night at Mag:net Café; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Bam del Valle at Government; Soulistic w/ DJ Scratchmark at Prince of Jaipur; Desi Nights at Bollywood;

July 23, Sunday

Cinemalaya Film Festival Awards Night at CCP; Champagne Lunch at Paseo Uno (Mandarin Oriental); Champagne Brunch at Spiral (Hotel Phil. Plaza); Through the Palette's Eye exhibit at UP Vargas Museum; Architecture + Ecology exhibit at Goethe-Institut Manila

July 24, Monday

Sitti: Bossa Night at Stonehouse; I Don't Like Mondays! w/ DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Silk & Steel at Merk's; Teresa Avila at The Tivoli; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar; Follies de Mwah at Club Mwah

July 25, Tuesday

Cuisine Royale w/ Manolet Dario at Embassy Cuisine; Panic w/ DJ Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Sparkle at Absinth; Kickback Tuesdays at Manila DJ Club; Guarana at Café Havana Greenbelt; Sitti at Tavern Greenbelt 3; Acoustic Night at Temple; Sitar Night at Bollywood

July 26, Wednesday

Weekend Wednesdays w/ DJ Boyet Almazan at Strumm's; Smooth Wednesdays w/ DJ Steve Mills at Absinth; Discotech w/ DJ Papi Santos at Mezze; DJs Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Funksouljah at Manila DJ Club; Bloomfields at Eastwood Fuente Circle; Birthday Bash at Citrus; DJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Club; Willy Wanka's Music Factory at Gweilos Makati; DJ Brit at Government; Double Happiness at Prince of Jaipur; Way Back Wednesdays at Bed; Jazz Night at Mag:net Café; Rockin' Revival at Conway's Bar

July 27, Thursday

Black Eyed Peas at Araneta Coliseum; Coup w/ Manolet Dario at Fiamma; OperaNow II at CCP; Reggae Night at 6Underground; BBC's Sweet Suite Soul w/ DJ Mike Constantino at Sake Lab; GottaHaveHouse at Capone's ; Nuvo Soul w/ DJ Elian at Nuvo; Liquor Spill at Citrus; SPIT at Mag:net Café; G Lounge at Mezze

Bloomfields at Arruba; Latina Thursdays at Prince of Jaipur; Fluxxe: Whatever Thursdays at Absinth; Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple

July 28, Friday

Pussycat Dolls at Araneta Coliseum; Decadance w/ Boyet Almazan at Jill's; The Blue Room w/ DJs JP Sacaben & Nix Pernia at Azzurro Linden Suites; Got House! At Mezze; Tribe-ulence Fridays at Absinth; Style Fridays w/ Steve Mills at Citrus; DJ Owens Sun at Embassy Club; Disco Mania at MDC Greenhills; HouseBeats at Mati

Bloomfields at Metrowalk; MyHOUSE at M Café; Soul Shine w/ DJ Marie Garcia at Embassy Cuisine; Happy Yummy w/ DJ Brit at Government; Jive Fridays at Temple; The Jerks at '70s Bistro; Gogo Fridays at Bed; Route 70 & Dawn at Merk's; DJs Scratchmark at Bliss & Shorty at Prince of Jaipur; Mitch Valdes at Captain's Bar; Jay C. & USO at Streetscape Shangri-La Plaza

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 (Globe) and 209 (Smart). Log on to mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

WORKINGMOM Magazine and MERALCO
present

"Ilaw ng Tahanan Series"

Working Mom Magazine's Enlightened
Home Management Guide.

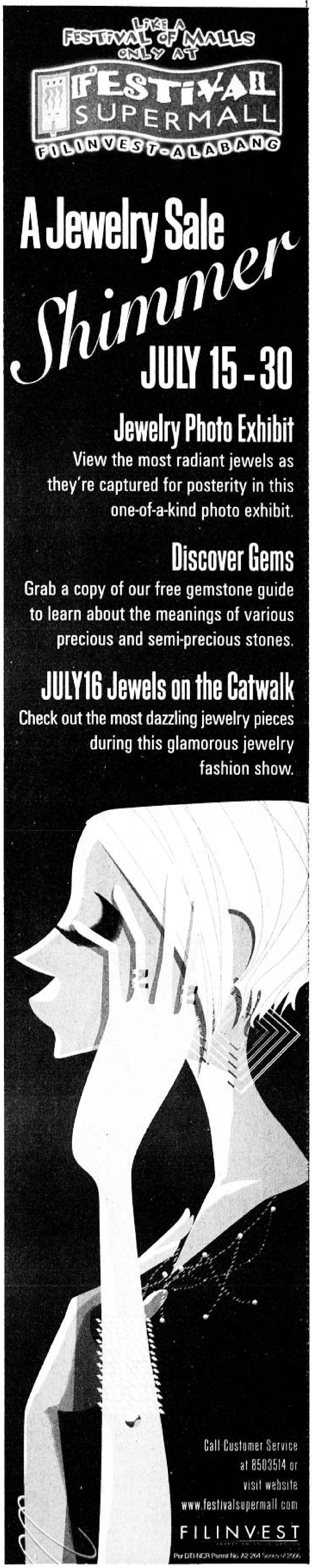
Day 1: Parenting: "Training the yaya to be your second self"
Speaker: Maribel Dionisio (Parenting Consultant)
Date: July 29, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

Day 2: FOOD FOR LIFE: Working Mom's guide to food and diet at home
Speaker: Food Editor In Chief – Norma Chikiamco
Date: August 26, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

Day 3: Get Organized! De-clutter your home now!
Date: September 30, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Venue: 13th Floor Training Hall A and B ELJ Communications Center, Quezon City

ABS CBN PUBLISHING, INC.

This seminar is for free but pre-registration is a must
For details please contact Tin Tuazon at 415.27.62
E-mail: Kristine_tuazon@abs.pinoycentral.com



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They're queer, they're here, we can get used to it

From page D1

filmed in Vegas, fun meaning lots of weddings and fun meaning a Freaky Friday-like episode where they all traded places. Carson, who had to play Thom in that episode said, "I painted a straight guy's room pink and he liked it."

Invited by the Ayala Malls and Bench to the country so they can share their knowledge about fashion, grooming, food, culture and home with Filipino fans, Thom, Carson, Ted, Kyan and Jai are scheduled to hold three meet-and-greet sessions at different Ayala Malls during their stay.

Real chemistry

Earlier in the afternoon, the five brandished their wit and candor, making members of the media laugh during the press conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. They spoke Tagalog, poked fun at one another and had the room buzzing with energy. It felt more like a comedy show than a press conference. When asked if they thought gays, like blondes, have more fun, Carson replied, "Gay blondes have even more fun!"

Ted said, "She meant real blondes."

Carson retorted, "Old people are so funny." Then the two air-kissed each other, making the audience laugh even more.

It is obvious that even off-camera, the Fab Five have real chemistry. "We're all so different, we're very different but we get along so well," Kyan said.

"And we're heavily medicated," Carson joked.

The jokes continued throughout the entire press con—a lot of them coming from Carson.

As the others rattled off their website URLs, Carson said, "My website is iwantahotfilipinohusband.net." Carson isn't the only one who seems to be impressed with Pinoy men. When asked if they were willing to do makeovers on Filipino guys, Ted said, "Sure. What can we possibly improve though?"

The Fab Five may love Pinoy men but Filipinas are absolutely crazy over them, especially Kyan, who received a number of marriage proposals from girls the last time he was here.

Do they have advice for women who fall in love with gay men? Carson had the answer. "Oh my. I'd say get a credit card with a very high limit."

"It's remarkable that women come up to us and profess their love. It's like, you do know the premise of the show right?" said Kyan.

Of the five, only Carson and Jai are single. "Ted's been in a relationship for over ten years," Thom said.

"In straight years, that's like forty," Carson added.

Fab celebrities

When asked to name the most fabulous celebrities, Jai said, "George Clooney is our staple."

Carson added, "No matter where you see him, he looks amazing, whether he's driving his boat or buying at Starbucks."

Other names mentioned were Brad Pitt, Tom Cruise, Johnny Depp and Matthew McConaughey. "Did you notice that we're only picking men?" they asked. "We also love Barba Streisand, Cher and Judy Garland."

Ted said, "I think the best celebrities are those who do not get caught up in their celebrity."

Busy, busy

Tonight, Carson, Thom, Jai, Ted and Kyan will fly back to the US but Filipino fans will be seeing more of them—and not just on Queer Eye. Ted will continue educating people about wine and food and promoting his cook book "The Food You Want To Eat." Jai is devoting time to his music, which you can check out on MySpace, a feature film called "One Month In Hell" and a new show involving Simon Cowell. Kyan will be working hard as L'Oreal's spokesperson. (You can visit www.lorealmen.com for a virtual consultation with the grooming guru.) Thom, who has just finished working on Jennifer Lopez's and Marc Anthony's home in Long Island, New York, will continue more design projects. (You can check out his projects at www.thomfilicia.com.) Carson will be seen as a commentator in this year's Miss Universe pageant. ("Yeah, I didn't read the contract very carefully. Women? Okay. But the gowns and the jewelry and the shoes are amazing so I highly recommend it," he said.) and his apparel line for men and women. "It's called Perfect—because there are a lot of pieces that men and women should have in their wardrobes—perfect staples that they don't own. It will be carried by a major American retailer but I can't tell you who just yet. You'll be getting it here, don't you worry," he added.

Aside from their own projects, Thom, Carson, Ted, Kyan and Jai all have their own advocacies and causes. "The great thing about being a celebrity is that if you're involved in a cause, people will listen," said Carson.

Kyan said, "We don't do a lot of overtly political things in our show but I think the chance to be openly gay and out on television is already something. I think this is probably a universal thing whether you're Filipino or not, when you're young and you're not sure of who you are, you're looking out there for anyone like you. I hope people get that from our show—that we're people who are gay, are out, who are being themselves. I think that's the real struggle for any person, to identify who you are and to be true to that."

You can still catch the Fab Five today at Alabang Town Center from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Watch "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" on ETC, Mondays at 9 p.m.

Sidebar explosion

What do you do when you interview walking quotes? You make sidebars—lots of them

Trend report

Fashion. Stick to the classics, according to Carson. "I don't love people who are super trendy because I believe in building your wardrobe on great classics and then playing with accessories. In general, for men and women, a return to tailored classics, clothes that fit and more subtle palettes."

Grooming. The short haircut is back, Kyan said. What else is hot? "Men using skin care, men taking care of themselves."

Food and wine. It makes Ted happy that people are now more interested in learning how to pair food with wine. "People are now having wine-tasting parties at home. (They're realizing) wine isn't something that's just about being pretentious and stuffy, it's not just for wealthy people. That's exciting for me."

Must-haves for the modern man

Carson says: "I think guys are really lucky because for a guy to have a great wardrobe, it doesn't take a whole lot. A great suit, great dress shirts, a great pair of jeans, a great T-shirt, an amazing watch because that's the only jewelry a man really wears, great shoes—black and brown, a couple of belts and you're done. How easy is that?"

How to set the mood for a night of romance:

Jai: "Clean your apartment."

Carson: "I kiss my cleaning lady sometimes, I get so turned on by a clean apartment. And wearing the outfit that makes you feel the most confident is going to make you exude sexiness. Because confidence is sexy. And if it makes you feel good, you're gonna look good. And point B to my tip—because I can't just say one thing—is you have to smell good."

Ted: "You smell good by the way."

Carson: "Don't I smell good? Smell me."

Thom: "Being confident is a great thing for every day, not just when you want to be romantic."

Kyan: "It's taking extra steps whether it's lighting candles or preparing a meal you wouldn't otherwise prepare."

Carson: "Surprises are sexy."

Clip and save: tips from the Fab Five

"Listen to the voices in your head. Your wardrobe and your home or anything—it's really about expressing yourself. There's no one else like you. Have fun with that." **–Carson Kressley**

"The one thing I promote on our show or even in my private practice is keeping it personal. Design isn't about just following a formula, it's really about creating an environment that represents yourself or the people who live in that home." **–Thom Filicia**

"Asian skin is pretty damn great. Keep it clean and keep it moisturized. But all of us, whether you're Asian or African or Caucasian, should remember to use sunscreen—SPF15 or better." **–Kyan Douglas**

Luxurious indulgences and cheap thrills

Thom: "If you ask my accountant, I think he will tell you that I don't have a cheap thrill. Okay, I guess chocolates are my cheap thrill. But the chocolates I like aren't cheap. My favorite luxury is free time. As we get older, it's harder and harder and harder to find free time."

Carson: "I was gonna say my horse. Because I have a horse and I love him to death and it's not easy to keep a horse in New York City. My cheap thrill? A good mani-pedi, Havaianas flip flops from Brazil and a deep-V T-shirt."

Jai: "A really really great amazing pair of jeans. If you find jeans that you love, buy four."

Ted: "I got myself this machine that makes you coffee—all you have to do is press a button."

Kyan: "Coffee and ice cream—that's my expensive and cheap thrill."

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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

SUPER! got the chance to meet Chris Martin and discovered the sensitive side to this artist.

SUPER! EXCLUSIVE ON COLDPLAY IN SINGAPORE

Better than the Fab Four

Tim Yap

"WE WANT TO TRY TO BE like the Beatles and make something really wonderful, amazing and different. In fact, we want to be better than them."

In the eight years that Coldplay has been in the music industry, their dreams have indeed come true, breaking new ground for rock muisc and selling 30 million records along the way.

The first time I encountered Coldplay was at the MTV European Awards in Barcelona a few years back. I was at the hotel gym doing my cardio when my eyes caught a glimpse of this music video played in reverse. Maybe I was the last one to have seen it, but I later learned that the video that piqued my interest was "The Scientist," their first big hit. From then on, the name Coldplay became a mainstay on my playlist.

That night, as I perched on the red carpet for the after-party, an unassuming young man came out of the a limo. "Hmmm, this guy looks like the dude in that cool video," I thought to myself. I took a closer look when we walked beside each other. "Mr. Coldplay! Mr. Coldplay! Can I have a picture with you, Mr. Coldplay?" I must have looked like a harmless Japanese tourist that he gamefully obliged, albeit a bit puzzled (I guess he wasn't used to the attention yet at that time) but he came across as a down to earth and introverted person.

On MTV Centerstage

Fast forward to this year and I am at the Sentosa Hotel, where the band was billeted for their Singapore stint at the Singapore Indoor Stadium as part of their MTV Centerstage performances. I must admit that despite meeting him in person before, I am not really familiar with the songs of the band. Not until the concert did I realize that this was the group who dished out the song "Yellow."

At the outdoor area of the hotel with the view of the sea, **Chris Martin** (lead singer), **Will Champion** (drummer), **Jon Buckland**

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ON MTV CENTERS[illegible] Jon Buckland, Guy Berryman and Will Champion

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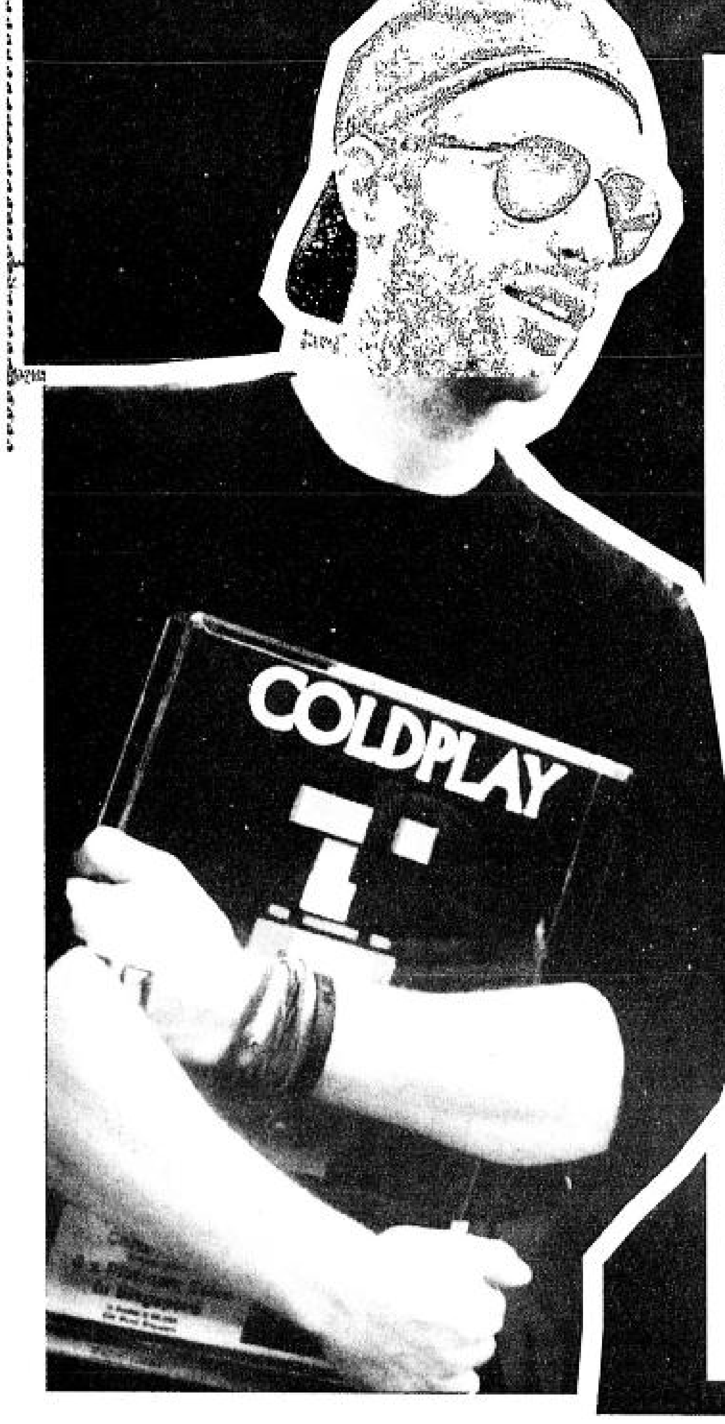
SUPER EXCLUSIVE ON COLDPLAY IN SINGAPORE

Better than the Fab Four

CORY! CORY! The Coldplay fans screamed when they sang "Yellow."



From page E1

(guitarist) and **Guy Berryman** (bassist) walked towards the press area unrecognized by guests. I looked at Chris, who had a quirky grin painted on his face all through out and screamed, "Mr. **Gwyneth**! Mr. Gwyneth! Can I have a picture with you, Mr Gwyneth?" And he gamely punched my face.

Of course I am kidding. I overheard from some Asian media that he prefers not to talk about G spottings and would rather focus on his music and his world view. He allegedly hit some rude member of the paparazzi for taking snapshot of him in a London cab. Oh well.

"All of us are excited to play music to people," Will said as they received the EMI regional platinum awards for outstanding sales for their album. Chris received the award and pretended to throw it out the veranda of the hotel. How very rock star.

For a good cause

"Gee, thanks!" Chris walked around barefoot with a childlike expression on his face, wearing black pullovers and cargo pants, leather bracelets on his left wrist. His fingers had a red and blue rubber tape worn as rings. I asked him later about it and he said it didn't mean anything.

"Didn't mean anything" is not what you'd expect from this band, whose fame is strongly identified with their causes like their advocacy on free trade (freedom for all countries to trade and the fight against poverty), which prompted me to ask that question on the meaning of their choice of accessory. That, aside from their Ray Ban rock star aviators.

"We made a decision to use our fame for a good cause rather than just to make money." Will told me speaking on behalf of the band. "We can use our fame to sell frizzy drinks but we'd rather sell a cause."

They said they would rather score music for films, because they feel it is more exciting "from one form of art to help express another form." They would rather do this than tackle commercial endorsements. Not bad for a band that was formed in 1996 while studying history in University College in London.

The new Coldplay sound

Will, their drummer is on a conscious effort to find the new Coldplay sound. A Coldplay fanatic from Kuala Lumpur told me that after Chris submits a song for their album, he would seek Will's approval, and if Will doesn't like the sound, it doesn't make the cut.

How does Chris feel about the whole media frenzy about his family? "I understand aspects of it, and I totally know what I got into, but I would rather concentrate my efforts in becoming musically brilliant," he looks up, searching for words. "Because I don't think we've gotten there yet," he told **Clara Chow** of The Straits Times Singapore.

"We want to make a new sound. We've brought our sound to its logical conclusion."

The rest of the band does not mind the extra attention that Chris gets, because "if you take one part away it won't be the same—no one is more important than the other." They all nod in agreement.

Just like the Beatles

On the band's planned new direction, they realize that they "have to aim to be the best." So they look up to the Beatles for inspiration. "We want to leave a legacy that is similar to the Beatles, with songs for everyone. We think every Beatles song is incredible."

In Will's opinion, Chris has written songs that mean so much to people as they did back then (**Lennon, McCartney**), but they want to steer it in a way that is "sonically new, with great melody and it will sound like a Coldplay song only different," Will winks as he imagines the new Coldplay.

On their global concert tour, when their songs are appreciated even with non-English speaking audiences, they feel equally elated. "It makes you feel justified to work hard—it's like payday when someone tells us they don't understand English but they love our music."

HOTPLAY, COLDPLAY. Me and Mr. Gwyneth

Poignant, poetic and bittersweet

For their concert, I walked into the Singapore Indoor Stadium without any expectations. I left the concert hall feeling quite vulnerable. Poignant, poetic and bittersweet—the words of their songs echo the wans and woes of this generation that seeks to love and be loved.

Even with high tech giant video projectors that complete the show's full sensory experience (with giant yellow balloons floating around the audience when the band sang "Yellow"), one could feel the tormented soul that is Chris Martin, as he soulfully sang about love and pain, joy and sorrow.

He had the stage to himself, and he made sure he gobbled it all. He was possessed. He was a mad man.

One minute he's pounding on the piano keys and another time he's flying onstage as if he was sprinkled with some form of pixie dust. It came to an intense surreal point where it seemed like he was passionately making love to his piano, thrusting his body to the beat while the audience cheered him on to climax. And then encore.

Three Pinoy Idols at Eastwood City on July 26

THIS YEAR'S AMERICAN IDOL finalist Jose "Sway" Penala along with Canadian Idol 2003 finalist Mikey Bustos and RnB Star, songwriter and producer Honore, will perform live in a one night free concert at the Eastwood City Central Plaza on July 26, 2006 at 7 p.m. These three artist hold a distinction of all having Filipino blood running in their veins, with Jose Penala and Mikey Bustos being pure Filipinos.

Jose "Sway" Penala, as you may know was the only Filipino to make it to the top 24 of this year's American Idol. His most notable performance was that of his rendition of Earth, Wind and Fire's "Reasons," where he got a positive ovation from 2 of the 3 judges.

Mikey Bustos made it to the top 10 finalist of the Candian Idol in 2003.

That same year he recorded two songs for the Canadian Idol Compilation, which sold excess GOLD on the Soundscan Billboard charts on the second day of release and ranked top five in the best selling Canadian album of all time in its debut week. Mikey broke all barriers being the first Filipino-Canadian singer in Canadian Music History to ever sing a feature track on a gold selling Canadian record.

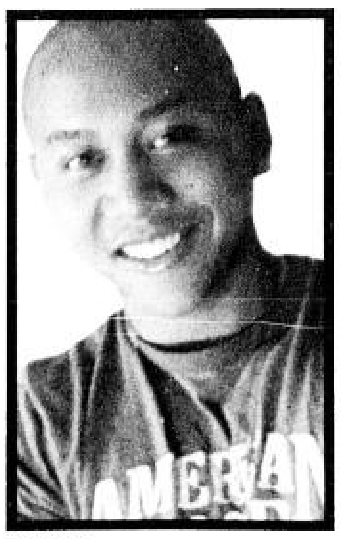
Honore who is of Creole and Filipino descent, broke into the scene in 2003 with his first single "Wonderful" prduced by Spontaneuos. Since then, he has been a formidable force in the music industry, collaborating with Director, Bobby Torres to form the label Banan Gravy Recording.

The 3 Pinoy Superstars are in town to perform with the Pussycat Dolls for their first ever concert in the Philippines this coming July 28, 2006 at the Araneta Coliseum. Nicole Scherzinger, the lead singer of Pussycat Dolls, incidently is also of Filipino decent, making this concert truly an all out Pinoy invasion.

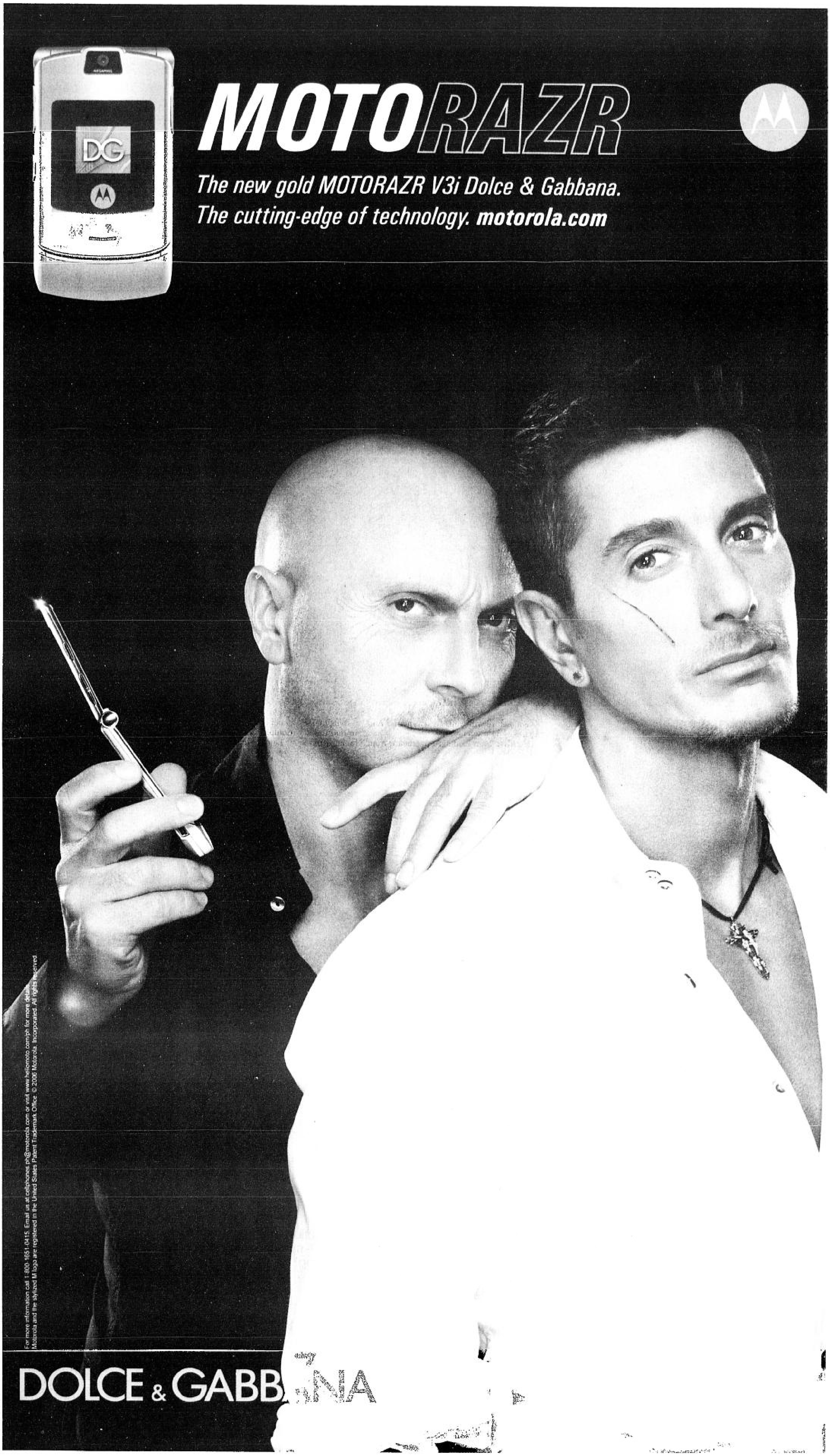
The Three Pinoy Idols at Eastwood City is brought to you by Magic 89.9, No Curfew and Storm Watch London.

HONORE

JOSE "Sway" Penala



MIKEY Bustos



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DOLCE & GABBANA

SUPER! EXCLUSIVE

From Bedtime story to big movie

WRITER-DIRECTOR M. NIGHT Shyamalan captivated audiences with his internationally acclaimed thriller The Sixth Sense, a multilayered ghost story powered by equal parts suspense and emotion. His succession of films that followed, Unbreakable, Signs and The Village, has established Shyamalan as a prolific storyteller with vision and purpose.

His newest film, Lady in the Water, began as an impromptu bedtime story Shyamalan invented for his two young daughters. "The way I tell stories to my kids is very freeform—whatever pops into my head and comes out of my mouth," he says of their nightly ritual.

"Do you know that someone lives under our pool?" is what popped out of Shyamalan's head on that particular night, sparking a story that played out for days and weeks on end.

Lady in the Water tells the legend of Story, a mesmerizing nymph-like young woman, and Cleveland, the broken-spirited building superintendent who discovers that she is actually a Narf—a character from an ancient and epic bedtime story—who has journeyed to the human world to fulfill a vital and sacred purpose.

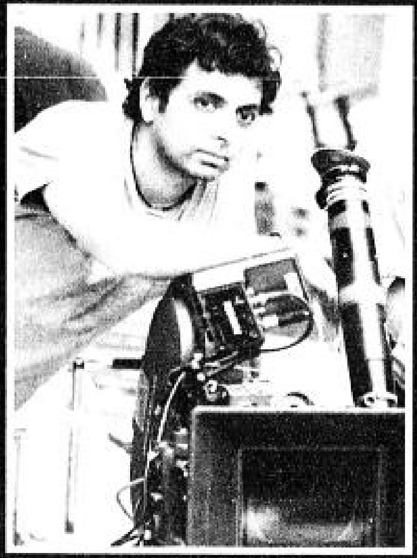
Here, in an exclusive interview, M. Night Shyamalan talks about his latest film, his creative process and what it's like to see stories in your head on celluloid.

How is it to make a film out of a story you told your kids?

It is the same as it always is when I tell my girls stories, which is: You don't know what's going to happen. And that's dangerous and wonderful. Literally, I go, "Should we tell a story?" And they go, "Yeah." And I say, "What should I tell about?" And they say, "About this glass." And I go, "Okay, so there's this man that blows glass, and you know what blowing glass is? When you put your own air and your own lungs in it. And one day he was really sad and he blew the glass, and the glass became a different color." I just make that up as I'm talking about this glass, right? And we would start going for another half an hour. And I don't know where that's going, but it'll end up in this amazing place. And there's this mania that happens because I keep on talking. And the girls can tell I don't know where I'm going, and then it suddenly goes, "Oh," and they go, "Uh huh." And we all discover it at the same moment. And that was how I wanted to make this movie.

What do you mean when you say that some of the characters in this film are 'a link in the chain'?

It's this idea that a person is told that their contribution is going to be important down the line. You are crucial in that chain of events—a link in the chain. That's part one. And next is, what would you be willing to do to ensure that your message gets out there? I'm not all that brave a guy. If the building was burning down and you were burning in it, I'd be like, "Somebody help her!" I would probably consider going in and I would be really torn because I'd be scared to death. But if I knew you were an author, and I knew you were an amazing author, and the only copy of your book was in the building, I probably wouldn't hesitate at all, to go in, not even for a second, to jump in that building and get that book. The preservation of an idea is far more important than anything I can imagine. Something I always talk about with the younger actors is "What would you be willing to do to really connect? Would you be willing to do everything you needed to do, give away ego, do other things, trash everything that you've achieved to make this one connection, if you could do it just one time?" It's a powerful idea, this idea of what you'd be willing to do, if you're told what your link in the chain was, and what was going to happen to you. Would that be satisfying enough—to be part of that chain?



What were the risks of making this film?

I'm responsible, and I know when I'm making calculated risks here and there. This was an acrobat move. I actually felt like on that side of the hill is unlimited potential. I don't know if I can, but it's in this point of view that I might be able to get there. I may not get there; most probably I won't get there. But there's a nice feeling that there's something on that side. That's how I felt here, and I wanted everyone to feel that potential. My God, if we could get on that side of the mountain, it would be fantastic.

Does this film take on issues of faith in the religious sense?

I'm not a big traditional Orthodox religious fan. That's not my thing. These are all just metaphors, and so it should be taken that way. Just a conversation of: Do we believe in believing anymore? Have we given that up? We're all definitely lost now. That's what The Village was about—when everybody was important to the process. We all needed each other. Everything was imbued with meaning. But now, we don't know what's happening. We all just accept it. We accept so much ambiguity now. And there's kind of the purity of the storytelling where Paul desperately is telling these people, believe in believing again, and only a guy who had given up, who had zero, could make that speech to them. "Let's take a leap of faith. What's it going to hurt us if we genuinely click our heels and believe here?"

Why did you choose to play the writer figure?

This idea of being a writer who's told that what you're doing is important—it's a dream of all writers because they all said that it's the most torturous moment, to be a writer, the blank page, and this sucks! And for someone to tell you that it's going to have an impact, like Harriet Beecher Stowe, the idea of me playing Harriett Beecher Stowe, this idea of someone who writes a book that then later has implications that you never realized. Someone like Lincoln will then read it, and then have a point of view, and then change things. That you are part of an incredible chain of events is a powerful thing that I have seen happen in my own life. I tell this story in every interview; I'm going to tell it one more time: I was in JFK Airport, and I was driving with my parents. I'm 12 years old, and the flight's delayed, so I went in the bookstore. I got a book, which is Spike Lee's book, She's Gotta Have It, where he talks about making his first film. And I read this thing and I go, "You can just make movies? You can just go out and make movies? This is crazy. I didn't know you could do that." And I was like, "Wow, this is legitimately something I could go do." So, life goes on. I decided to go to film school, and I go, and I make movies. Luckily, people go to see them; I make money; I start a foundation; the foundation gets involved with this community in India where this woman stood up to these pillaging people and started to educate the women in her town; and I am now going to help those people and save lives and save those children. That means Spike Lee saving lives in that town. He was a link in a chain that he is completely unaware of, by empowering me, who then empowers other people and we keep being part of a chain of events. It's a real thing that happens. It's an amazing thing. If someone told Spike, "You know what? Yeah, you're going to make movies and all that stuff. But actually what's going to happen is you're going to save about 10 children's lives in a town in India if you just write this book." I mean, he wouldn't believe it. You know what I mean? But it's what happens. And it continues to happen, this network, a veining of positive actions.

Did you ever tell Spike that?

No. No I haven't. I do, I talk to Spike a lot, but I didn't tell him that. He'll think I'm corny.

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